

**'Proud Heritage, Powerful Future'**  
We have a theme for the parade – now  
all we need is a logo. Contest to follow.  
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**AIDS is kids stuff**  
Middle school and high  
school students get involved.  
pages 14, 24



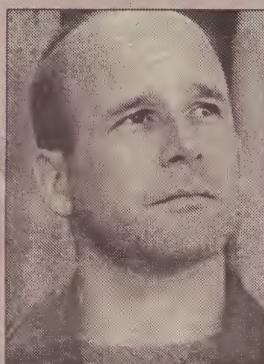
**Chicks w/ dicks flicks**  
(and FTM films, too!)  
Tranny Fest Saturday.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 47 • 19 November 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years



Jane Philomen Cleland

**SF LGBT health coordinator to hold first-ever public meeting Monday**

by Cynthia Laird

The coordinator of the city's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health Services, Dana Van Gorder, will host a community meeting this Monday, November 23, to report on his activities within the Department of Public Health (DPH), take input about unmet community health needs, and assess community satisfaction with DPH services.

Van Gorder, who has held the coordinator's post since July 1994, said he spends 75 percent of his time working on a range of LGBT health issues, and 25 percent of his time working on affirmative action issues for the department. Van Gorder said despite his

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## 20th annual Milk march to go forward, despite controversy



Rick Gerharter  
This year's 20th annual Milk-Moscone Memorial Candlelight March could prove sizable, unlike last year's, when a small but dedicated band carried on the tradition.

by Cynthia Laird

It seems like marches in the gay community are always generating controversy, and the one planned for next Friday, November 27 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the killing of gay Supervisor Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone is no exception.

The leadership of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club is apparently at odds with longtime gay activist Allen White, who was so upset at the club's plans for the march that he hustled down to the police department and took out the permit for it himself. That irked Milk Club President Criss Romero, who met with White and the Reverend Jim Mitulski, senior pastor at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, in an effort to smooth things out.

White said Monday, November 16 that he was turning in the permit he received, clearing the way for the Milk Club to get its own. In a letter to Police Chief Fred Lau, White stated that he was withdrawing his application. ►

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## A cornucopia of Thanksgiving dinners for those in need

Volunteers, donations sought

by Mark Norby

Whether you are far from friends and family and wanting holiday company, or looking for a more meaningful experience this Thanksgiving, San Francisco holds many holiday celebrations to bring people together.

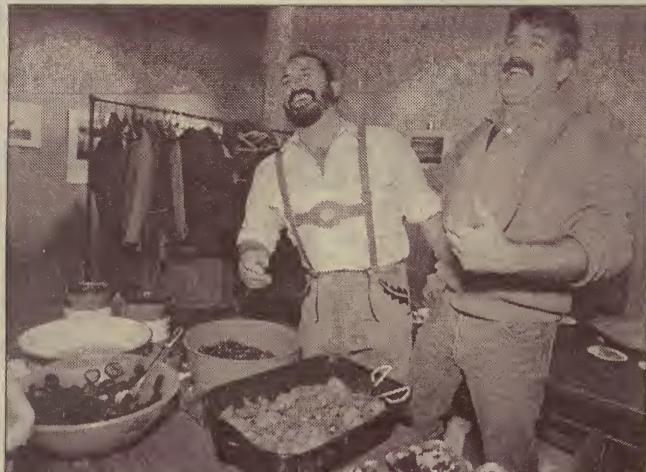
This year, however, the need for volunteers is more urgent than it was last year. There are more mouths to feed, the outpouring of donations to disaster relief in Central America has affected the level of this season's donations to holiday meal programs, and virtually every organization providing food this Thanksgiving has put out calls for volunteers.

### Project Open Hand needs hands

Project Open Hand (POH) will deliver more than 1,200 meals to people living with AIDS this Thanksgiving, and is in dire need of volunteers.

"In particular," says Kevin Swanson of the holiday meal drive, "POH needs volunteers.

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Jane Philomen Cleland

Turkey 'n' trimmin's: it takes volunteers (like these) to cook it all up, and the need for help is greater now than ever.

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

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# Judge to rule Tuesday if Mora stands trial for Wilmes murder

by Cynthia Laird

**S**an Francisco Municipal Court Judge Ellen Chaitin is expected to decide this Tuesday, November 24, whether Edgard Mora will stand trial for murder or a lesser charge in the March death of gay city resident Brian Wilmes, following a two-day preliminary hearing that concluded Tuesday, November 17. Mora has pleaded not guilty to one count of murder and one charge of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury against a witness. The murder charge carries a hate crime enhancement.

The prosecution, led by Assistant District Attorney Murlene Randle, argued that Mora should be tried on the murder and assault charges and rebuffed the defense's argument that Mora was drunk and despondent over financial and child custody issues. Randle said there are no excuses for the level of violence Mora exhibited the night of the incident, as described by witnesses for both sides.

The courtroom was full with members of Mora's family both days, outnumbering a couple of victim advocates from Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and Mike Dreier, the owner of the Loading Dock bar. Jennifer Rakowski, from CUAV, told the Bay Area Reporter that she hopes community members will turn out in support of Wilmes on Tuesday when the Chaitin issues her ruling.

Wilmes, 45, died March 14 from head injuries suffered when he was allegedly punched by Mora, 26, in front of the Loading Dock bar on Mission Street the night of March 12. According to testimony at the hearing from Timothy Carroll, who was with Wilmes at the time of the attack, Mora yelled variations of the phrase "Do you want a piece of me, faggot?" four times during the few minutes leading up to

and following Mora's single punch to Wilmes's mouth. Wilmes was caught off balance and fell backward, hitting his head on the sidewalk.

The judge was interested in the number of times Mora uttered the anti-gay epithets. "[Was] faggot used in a derogatory way more than once?" Chaitin asked Carroll.

"Yes," Carroll testified, before recounting each instance.

Carroll, under questioning by Randle, testified of trying to avoid Mora, who was "very boisterous and I'd say belligerent" as he and Wilmes crossed Mission Street on their way to the bar. "Then I heard a sound, a very loud crack that caused me to turn around," Carroll testified. "I noticed Brian was somehow engaged with the individual. I saw Brian's arms flail ... then Brian hit the ground."

### Previous convictions

A homeless man who got the license plate number of the car Mora was riding in also testified at the hearing; Michael Gillespie told the court he was hit on the back of the head by Mora, who then proceeded to kick a bus shelter, kick a passing bicyclist, kick a passing vehicle, and kick the door of the Jon Sims Center, before punching Wilmes.

During the hearing, the judge heard from several prosecution witnesses and two defense witnesses, including Mora's girlfriend Silvia Vanegas, the so-called mystery woman who drove Mora from the scene after the incident. Under questioning by defense attorney Robert Dunlap, Vanegas testified that she didn't see Mora punch Wilmes because she was closing a car window, but she saw Mora standing by Wilmes and yelled at him to get back in their car.

According to Vanegas, Mora had been drinking heavily and was "acting wild" throughout the evening, jumping out of their car as it was moving along Mission

Street before he jumped out again across the street from the Loading Dock.

The defendant weighed approximately 284 pounds at the time of his arrest shortly after the incident, which the prosecution pointed out during witness questioning, since Mora lost weight for his court appearance and his suit hung on him loosely.

Randle also offered into evidence Mora's prior convictions for drunken driving in 1994 and 1997; Randle argued that the defense was aware of the prior convictions.

Vanegas, a post office employee, testified she's been Mora's girlfriend for two years and during that time, she's never known him to harbor bias against gays or any minority group. She said Mora had drunk a bottle of peppermint schnapps but she was driving as they went to see a movie in the city. They left the movie and Vanegas was driving them home when she had to stop the car on Mission Street across from the Loading Dock after Mora jumped out of the vehicle.

She told the court Mora was worried after seeing television news reports on the attack, but she didn't think it was the same incident because she was unaware the Loading Dock was a gay bar.

"He asked what had happened to his hand. He didn't remember the events of the night before," Vanegas testified.

San Francisco Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stevens testified Wilmes died of a closed head injury. Dunlap elicited from Stevens an acknowledgment that Wilmes had methamphetamine in his system when he died. ▼

**Judge Chaitin is expected to announce her decision at 9 a.m. Tuesday in Department 20, second floor at the Hall of Justice, 7th and Bryant streets.**

# Gay civil rights leader Rustin's partner to present gifts, program at MCC-SF Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

**M**etropolitan Community Church-San Francisco will welcome Walter Naegle, surviving life partner of Bayard Rustin this Sunday, November 22. Naegle will present MCC-SF with two religious icons from Rustin's estate at the 11 a.m. church service. Naegle will also present a program at 1 p.m. about Rustin's life as a well-respected civil rights leader and an openly gay black man in the 1960s and 1970s civil rights movement.

Rustin was the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington,

designed to rally support for civil rights legislation that was before Congress. When he spoke to gay organizations, a common theme of his speeches was encouragement for young people to come out to avoid problems of lying to oneself and one's friends. He died on August 24, 1987 in New York City.

Rustin was a well-known collector of religious art and the Reverend Jim Mitulski, senior pastor of the church, said, "MCC-SF is extremely honored to receive this generous gift from the collection of one of the most important figures in the struggle for racial and economic justice in this country." The icons will be mounted in the

church chapel.

Of his work in the civil rights movement, Rustin once said, "The major aspect of the struggle within is determined without. If one gets out and begins to defend one's rights and the rights of others, spiritual growth takes place. The proof that one truly believes is in action."

Mitulski said the public is welcome to attend the dedication and program. ▼

**MCC-SF is located at 150 Eureka Street. For more information, call the church at (415) 863-4434.**

# Coors down the drain

by Cynthia Laird

The Coors Brewing Company has redesigned its beer cans to look like footballs, but San Francisco gay activists say they're not playing the game.

That was the message Monday, November 16 when community members poured Coors beer down the sewer in front of Harvey's bar in the Castro, to draw attention to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's (GLAAD) decision earlier this year to accept \$110,000 from Coors over the next two years. Spearheaded by activist Michael Petrelis, the event brought a slew of supporters and media attention, although Petrelis has resigned himself to the fact that GLAAD will not be returning any of the money.

The company has been boycotted in the past for homophobic, racist, anti-union policies, as well as for funding right wing groups such as the Heritage Foundation. The former situation may have changed, but not the latter. The Coors Brewing Company now has a gay employee group, domestic partner benefits, and sensitivity training for all workers, but profits go to the Adolph Coors Foundation, which continues to give large amounts of money to anti-gay organizations.

The "Coors Dump" on Monday was attended by Allan Baird, a straight retired Teamster and friend of the late Harvey Milk. The other speaker was Jerry Sloan, or Project Tocsin, an organization that monitors right wing groups and their Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 990 tax returns.

"We then shook up the six pack of Coors beer, stood over the sewer hole at Castro and 18th streets, the proverbial heart of urban gay America, and poured foaming Coors into the gutter amid chants of 'Drink Milk, Dump Coors,'" Petrelis said. "We apologize for the purchase of Coors, which we obviously needed as a prop, and wish to let folks know we have donated \$20, more than double the cost of the beer,



Activists dumped Coors beer down the drain at 18th and Castro streets on Monday, November 16. Among those taking part was Teamster Allan Baird (left, kneeling), a friend and colleague of the late Harvey Milk.

Rick Gerhardt

to a homeless meals program in the Castro."

He added, "It was beyond my expectations in terms of community and media interest."

#### GLAAD to not apologize

Scott Seomin, GLAAD's entertainment media director in Los Angeles, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Joan Garry, the organization's executive director, has a January meeting with Peter Coors, and it's "not a symbolic meeting."

"The decision to accept the money was not taken lightly," Seomin said. "We looked at our own decision-making process."

The money, which GLAAD accepted six months ago, will be used for the group's sexual orientation

in the workplace program. Most recently, GLAAD has completed such a training for employees of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Seomin said that Coors Brewing Company was one of the first businesses in the country to adopt a non-discrimination policy that included sexual orientation in 1978. He did acknowledge that the Coors foundation gives money to extreme right groups.

"Education is the heart of progress. I wonder if the Coors Boycott Committee had an audience with Peter Coors, how they'd approach it. They have not been invited."

"GLAAD makes no apologies and we have no intention of returning the money," said Seomin. ▼

## SF FTM activist Shadow Morton to receive Stonewall Award, \$25K grant

by Vicky Kolakowski

San Francisco transgender activist Shadow Morton was named Monday, November 9 as one of four recipients of the annual Stonewall Awards for achievements on behalf of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities.

Morton, a female-to-male transsexual and a gay man, professionally manages housing for homeless people with HIV in San Francisco, and has a long history of advocacy and fundraising for people with AIDS/HIV, transgender issues, women's health issues, and affordable housing.

These issues are interconnected, Morton told the *Bay Area Reporter*, saying that "these are all about basic human rights and we all have them, although we have a tenuous grip on them."

The Stonewall awards are based on nominations from an anonymous committee, and Morton did not know in advance that he was being considered for the



Shadow Morton

award, which includes a \$25,000 grant. "I almost threw the letter away," he told the *B.A.R.*, thinking that it was a contest form letter. "But it came by Federal Express, so I gave it to my roommates to read it to make sure that it was real."

Morton expressed surprise

that he was given the award, given that he likes "to be low key." He told the *B.A.R.* that "I like to live up to my name [Shadow]."

#### Recognition, not inclusion

Morton thinks of his contributions as being those of a team player and points out that for most of the projects on which he has worked, that there were many others who were also worthy of the award. "There are so many transgender people who deserve and need this money," Morton noted.

Such recognition is important for transgender people, Morton argues, because of the marginalization that the transgender and bisexual communities face in the larger gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. He is a strong advocate of coalition building, particularly between the transgender and bisexual communities who seek recognition in the queer community, but also between all communities.

"This isn't about inclusion, its

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or

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#### 4th Course

#### 2nd Course

Cream of pumpkin soup

or

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Diamond Heights

# Bell captain alleges discrimination, sexual harassment at Fairmont

by Mark Norby

**A** gay bell captain at San Francisco's landmark Fairmont Hotel was "constructively terminated" from his position September 30 after complaining of intolerable working conditions at the hotel.

The Law Offices of Paul Wotman filed a lawsuit against the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco Superior Court Friday, November 13, alleging gay discrimination, sexual harassment, and wrongful termination of bell captain Steven Billing.

The suit alleges that from around June 1996 to September 1998, Billing's immediate supervisor, Jeffrey Cooper, subjected Billing to a pattern of harassment, discrimination, and inappropriate touching.

Cooper, who was in charge of the Fairmont's concierge service at the time of Billing's termination, is named along with the Fairmont Hotel as defendant in the suit.

According to the complaint, Cooper repeatedly called Billing "fruit" and "faggot," and told Billing that he should dress in drag so that other employees could "take turns screwing him," according to Billing's attorney Tyler Shaw.

The complaint further alleges that Billing was subjected to various comments regarding sexual positions, group sex, masturbation, genitalia, anal sex, and penis size.

The suit states that on several

occasions Cooper gestured toward male guests in the Fairmont's lobby and made comments to Billing about guests' buttocks and genitalia, suggesting that Billing engage in sex with the patrons. Billing was also allegedly pushed, shoved, and provoked.

Cooper is said to have stroked Billing on the head, to have run his fingers through Billing's hair, to have patted him on the stomach, and to have wrapped his arm around Billing's torso.

Cooper apparently commented about Billing to other Fairmont employees, stating "where's the fruit," and "where's the faggot?" Cooper also asked Billing in the presence of other Fairmont employees questions like "are your panties ruffled" and "when was the last time you had a real wild romp?"

## Emotionally devastated

Billing had worked at the Fairmont since 1992, when he began as a bellman and was shortly thereafter promoted to bell captain. He had received awards for his excellent work and "outstanding employment performance," according to attorney Shaw.

"Steven has been emotionally devastated by this," Shaw told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He's very concerned that these [complaints] will jeopardize his future employment opportunities, and he's very sensitive about the matter."

Billing was finally terminated after his complaints to management of intolerable working conditions.

The full charges in violation of



Steven Billing

the California Labor Code in the suit include sexual orientation harassment and sexual orientation discrimination. Charges in violation of the California Government Code include retaliation and sexual harassment. Charges in violation of public policy include wrongful constructive termination, as well as charges of assault; battery; and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The suit as indicated by Wotman's office petitions for a trial by jury. The Law Offices of Paul Wotman is the leading law firm dealing with cases of gay and lesbian discrimination in San Francisco.

The *B.A.R.* attempted to gain the perspective of Fairmont Hotel management, but the hotel "cannot comment on the matter," according to an anonymous Fairmont Hotel human resources officer. Cooper remains employed by the hotel. ▼

# Benefit for prostitution decriminalization Sat.

by Liz Highleyman

**T**his Saturday, November 21, the U.S. Prostitutes Collective (U.S. Pros) will sponsor "Rock for Decrim," a benefit supporting the group's petition drive calling for the implementation of the recommendations of the San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution. The event, which will take place at Pier 5 Embarcadero, will feature refreshments, live music and entertainment, and a DJ.

The task force was convened in March 1994 by then-supervisor Terence Hallinan and was charged with investigating prostitution in the city and recommending "social and legal reforms which would best respond to the city's needs while using city resources more efficiently." The 28-member task force consisted of sex workers, police and legal officials, representatives of women's organizations, health advocates, social services workers, government officials and neighborhood representatives; six neighborhood representatives resigned because they disagreed with the majority's stance in favor



As the poster says, "Look what's surfaced at Subway": Entrepreneurs

of decriminalization.

On August 1, 1996, the task force released its final report, which recommended that existing city ordinances concerning litter, noise, and traffic be used to deal with "quality of life" issues, rather than prostitution-specific laws. The report emphasized the problem of violence against prostitutes, including police harassment. The task force made a dis-

tinction between forced and voluntary prostitution, and called on the city to "vigorously enforce laws against coercion, blackmail, kidnapping, restraining an individual's freedom of movement, fraud, rape, and violence, regardless of the victim's status as a sex worker." The report also recommended the expansion of health services for sex workers, including

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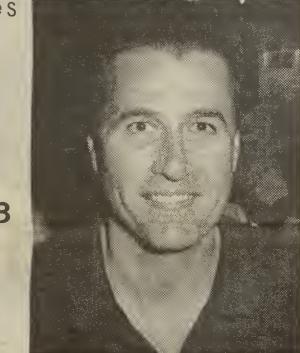
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November 27, 1978, Harvey Milk was murdered in his San Francisco City Hall office as was Mayor George Moscone by former City Supervisor Dan White. White had resigned his seat on the Board following the enactment of the Gay Civil Rights bill he fought against. White crawled through a basement window of the building to avoid metal detectors—he had a gun with him.

Harvey Milk thought of assassination during his years in the public eye. He recorded his political will on many tapes which he labeled "to be read in the event of my assassination." One tape included the following quote:

*"If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door."*

Twenty years later Harvey Milk lives in the people who fight for the rights of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community and all people. He is in the heart of everyone who believes in equality no matter who they are. We are a generation of San Franciscans who will never forget what Harvey Milk did for San Francisco, our country and the world.

His dreams, hopes and words ring true today.

**November  
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at 19th and Castro  
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Volume 28, Number 47  
19 November 1998PUBLISHER  
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# The death of commitment

**M**ost B.A.R. readers will be scanning these words as a judge makes a decision affecting the San Francisco gay and lesbian community: whether to downgrade charges against the killer of a gay man to manslaughter, or to make him stand trial on murder charges. As Cynthia Laird reports in this issue, Edgard Mora appeared in court Monday and Tuesday in the first hearing on the eight-month old killing of Brian Wilmes.

We, along with the author of the guest opinion column below, are very concerned that the community turned its back on Wilmes; Mora was amply supported in the courtroom, but there was no queer presence, except for the gays and lesbians who had to be there: a reporter and Community United Against Violence (CUAV) workers. When Wilmes died from the injuries Mora inflicted outside the Loading Dock bar, the community reacted with horror, outrage, and the question over and over again:

*How do we prevent this from happening ever again?*

None of the answers were wholly satisfying, although some (whistle campaigns, self-defense classes) seemed better than others (carrying concealed weapons). Community members asked CUAV to help, cops to help, District Attorney Terence Hallinan to help, and so on. Vows were made to help each other; they sounded sincere, and they probably were, but when the time came to help, they had vanished without a whisper.

It is too late to help save Brian Wilmes's life. But it is not too late to make sure his death hasn't been meaningless.

Now we have to wonder: what was all the talking, specifying, singing, poetry reading and marching for Matthew Shepard about? Were all the words (and dancing) really just auditions for wannabe performers – which, frankly, is what a lot of them seemed like (it must be said, we include politicos among the "performer" category) or did those people care one-tenth as much as they said?

Just to be sure, the B.A.R. ran a story last week reminding people of the hearing; that followed the first story on the hearing date by several weeks. We thought that would give everyone a chance to set aside some time to attend. Were we wrong, or does nobody give a shit about a dead fag, even in our own community?

Obviously it's easier for people to appear at a weekend march than a weekday hearing; obviously a dreary old courtroom is less fun than a cruisy, cozy march; obviously there are a lot of reasons people felt they couldn't get to the Hall

of Justice. But with so many obvious reasons that should have compelled people to attend, it's sad to see so little interest in the case of a real life gaybashing killer in our own back yard.

Next week the community will mark the murder of Harvey Milk and George Moscone with another march. Although it has dwindled in size over the years, the coming publicity about the assassinations' 20th anniversary will probably ensure it is well-attended (and excessively verbal, probably, with speakers denouncing violence before moving on to the topic that really interests them most – themselves – but we intend to start marching the second it degenerates into a long poetry/dance/songcycle fest again).

That's good, but we'd sure like to see a few of those marchers in court this Tuesday when Mora gets his decision.

Now, having said that, we also have to complain about the continued inaction of CUAV to provide whistles or self-defense to a community that desperately needs them. A campaign to distribute whistles in bars, similar to the one Stop AIDS Project set up to pass out condoms, should be relatively cheap and easy for CUAV to establish – if it's really serious about it. If not, perhaps another

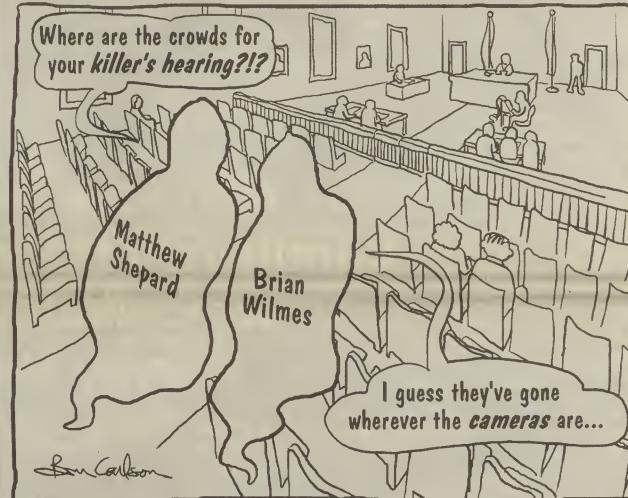
group, such as the Intergroup Clearinghouse or even Stop AIDS; it isn't about *turf*, it's about *safety*, could show CUAV how to do it.

CUAV representatives do a lot of good work, it must be said, but too much of it is reactive instead of proactive. Yes, the group is to be commended for assisting victims with pa-

perwork, but by now we should have learned from fighting the AIDS epidemic that prevention is better than treatment. And prevention is best tackled with a multi-pronged approach. In this case it means whistles, self-defense classes, lobbying, school speaker bureaus (which CUAV already does, splendidly), and community meetings to increase awareness. Perhaps some of the latter might have raised the visibility of Mora's court appearance, and more people might have taken the time and made the effort to appear for a victim who can't.

Because a strong community presence is also a means of prevention. Some people might cynically believe that no amount of gay spectators will stop the next gaybasher from punching his next victim; that may be true, but look at it the other way. The lack of outrage may be just the signal that the next Edgard Mora needs to believe he can get away with murder. ▼

## Editorial



## Are we family?

by Mark Dreier

**W**hat is a family? Families have parties, go to weddings, have barbecues, go to funerals, and support their own when accused of murder. ... The gay family does Halloween, Gay Pride, and Folsom Street Fair, rallies against crimes, marches to show our outrage, screams at the heavens, and ...

I have just spent the last two days attending the preliminary hearing for the defendant in the death of Brian Wilmes. This hearing is the forum where the state presents its evidence concerning the facts of the crime and its severity. Based on this presentation, the judge rules whether the defendant will stand trial and on what charges.

As the owner of Loading Dock bar, I was subpoenaed to testify. I was notified on Friday that my testimony would not be needed and therefore was not required to attend. From the first night of this horrible incident, I knew that it would be important to me personally to be informed of the court dates and the progress of the case. I vowed at that time to attend any and all court dates.

I have attended the last two days alone!

With the exception of the members of the press acting in official capacity and a representative of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), there was not one other gay person remembering the memo-

ry of a fallen brother in the courtroom.

No one to listen as Brian was continually referred to as "the body on the ground." No one to hear the defense's attempts to make him responsible for his own death because he had "a glass of wine and probably a few beers," making him unsteady. ... Or his friend's description of the awful sound that caused him to turn around in time to see Brian collapsing to the ground. ... To listen to the coroner's report describing his fractured skull. To hear the defendant, who had consumed enough alcohol to put him into a drunken rage, be described as a "victim" because of all the tragedy in his life. Or to hear that he held no hatred of any type toward any group of people, especially gay people ... and then hear two separate witnesses tell of hearing Brian and his companion that night being called *faggot* and *bitches*!

Or to hear the frightening detail of the defendant standing over Brian as he lay unconscious and dying, blood running out of his mouth, taunting him: "You still want a piece of me faggot?"

And all the while I sat alone wondering where *our family* – Brian's family was? During most of the hearing I was surrounded by the defendant's family, at times as many as 40 people from one- and two-year old nieces and nephews, cousins his own age,

parents and aunts and uncles, and – judging from age – most likely his grandparents. Four generations there to support their family member ... right or wrong.

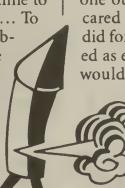
Monday I went to McDonald's for lunch by myself. How nice it would have been to have had a shoulder to cry or lean on. Someone to discuss the outrage with. Just one other person to know that our family cared for a dead member as much as *they* did for *theirs*! We demand that we be treated as equals, yet we have a lot to learn. We would hope and believe that the judge in

the case is fair and just, that she will rule according to the facts. But what message do we send when the victim is all but forgotten by his own gay family and left to have the system speak for him? The presence of Brian's gay family in the court room might have at least sent the message that we do care about our own and we do value each person of our family and that we will be involved.

It is time to start acting as members of a family, with all of its warts and inconveniences: report a crime, be a witness, help a victim, find a way to serve as a juror – not a way to get out of it, be as adamant about the harsh side of life as the fun side, *get involved*, be an equal!

Maybe then we can truly start to say, "We are family!" ▼

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Got Milk Money?

Thank you for shedding light on the complex problems of homelessness and economic homogenization in the Castro neighborhood. Though all of us who love the Castro may hold slightly (or even extremely) different opinions on the causes of, and potential remedies for, the problems faced here and throughout the city, I appreciate your consistent attention to these difficult issues and thank you for providing a space where we may air our differences and explore common ground.

I am writing to let you know about one particular strategy that other cities, towns, and communities have implemented, fairly successfully, to energize their local economies and alleviate some of these social and economic problems: mutual credit systems, which are methods of infusing old-fashioned gift economies (such as barter exchanges) with modern velocity and efficiency of communication.

Because the dollars we use are created by bank loan, they are always leaking interest back to a bank when we circulate them; thus, they provide an incentive to hoard currency instead of circulating it in trade. Local currencies, which do not bear interest, are always sufficient, so there is no incentive to hoard them. And yes, they're legal: As long as the money itself does not look confusingly similar to U.S. Federal Reserve notes, and as long as all income tax is paid in U.S. Federal Reserve currency, these systems are completely legal, and are well-established in many areas.

Mutual credit systems provide a catalyst for local trade, so more resources are circulated throughout a community, and social bonds develop among the participants. A Castro neighborhood currency – "Milk Money" in honor of the "Mayor of Castro Street" – would encourage local people to trade more freely with each other, thereby developing new friendships and business relationships.

For example, a retiree could sell a few hours of dog-walking every week for local money, and then spend it at the neighborhood movie theater or a neighbor's garage sale. Someone could teach piano lessons two hours a week, and receive some computer instruction for one hour a week, without worrying about dollars and cents. Even a poor person on the street, who may not be "creditworthy" or employable by traditional standards, could participate by agreeing to sweep the sidewalk in front of a restaurant in the morning, in return for credit that he or she could use to purchase basic necessities from a local merchant.

Local businesses could choose to accept it during off-hours, or for a certain percentage of any given sale (akin to the small print attached to frequent-flyer miles, coupons, and scrip systems). Some chain stores might also choose to accept local money in order to move more merchandise and build good will in the community, but the money itself keeps circulating in the local economy, not in some far-away bank. Freed from unnecessary (and corrosive) economic anxiety – "money is scarce and must be hoarded" – people are better able, and more willing, to exchange their talents and surplus goods. The result is a strengthened community and a vibrant local economy.

This neighborhood has no shortage of talent or good will; I believe an exchange system here could provide a fertile habitat for the growth of local friendships and business relationships, and perhaps even help lighten some of the demand for basic social services.

More details about these systems are available online at <http://www.transaction.net/money>, which includes a online conference where people talk about their experiences with local currency. Perhaps if there is sufficient interest, neighborhood leaders could hold a forum where local merchants, residents, and community groups could consider what kinds of units (hours, perhaps) and accounting methods (central registry, paper money, cheque, etc.) might be appropriate for this community.

Emily Hoyer  
San Francisco

## This is 'defense?'

I was born here in San Francisco but was granted political asylum and citizenship by the Netherlands in April 1989 because my Fourth and 14th Amendment constitutional rights were being denied.

Although the Netherlands no longer accepts applications for citizenship from anyone outside its borders we are still concerned about denial of those constitutional rights to United States citizens.

We are particularly concerned about activities of the Tenderloin Task Force in San Francisco, together with the city and county of San Francisco using its court system to appoint "public defenders" to criminal defendants who are not poor enough to be eligible for their services – and then having these defendants stripped of their real estate holdings and personal property items.

James Burruss Halpern  
San Francisco

## Whose fucking Castro?

When I wrote a letter regarding the compassionate disregard of the poor by some in the Castro (Who Owns The Castro? November 5), I knew B.A.R. would receive a few letters attacking my viewpoint, but I never would have guessed the one letter published in opposition would come from no other than Stephan Edwards, "Mr. San Francisco Leather 1998."

Mr. Edwards, whose "24-hour a day" home is the Castro, naively assumed that since my mailing address is in Pacifica, I had no connection to the Castro, and therefore had no reason to complain, lest he come to Pacifica and tell me how to live. Indeed, Mr. Edwards does not know that I spend, on an average day, 10 waking hours in the Castro, five days a week, and sometimes the weekends, working barely above the minimum wage, and then reinvesting that money back into the community at Valley Pride, Superstar 18, Books, Inc., Badlands, and so on.

Let's break down Mr. Edwards' day. Eight hours of sleep, eight hours at his job doing nails off Market, two hours eating and defecating, and six on his hair. I think I see more of the real Castro than Mr. Edwards does. True, I can't afford to live in one of those beautiful Victorians up 19th, but neither can most of the people who make the Castro function, namely the workers. We have been pushed out of our homes and out of the city. Now they want to push us out of the Castro. This is part of the problem I am addressing. The Castro isn't just a neighborhood any longer and

I think we all know that. The Castro is our safe space, it is our place of history, it is where we convene with our dead, it is our meeting place, and it is political. When bigots want to target us, where do they come? I feel, and I'm not alone, that I deserve a say in how the neighborhood is run because I am queer, whether I live there, work there, or just spend my weekends there. Why should the privileged be the only ones who have the safe space (lord knows, they think they deserve it more)? That safe space wasn't just built by them. They have robbed it with the help of parasitic Realtors and landlords, from the working class fags and dykes who provide the muscle for the movement. That space was built and continues to be built by the hard work and the lives of people who aren't rich, white, or male. Many gay men and women died to make that dream come true for us, their inheritors, and to steal it away, through exorbitant rent or laws attacking the homeless, is a betrayal and an insult.

It is an insult to the memories of those victims to adopt a central doctrine similar to that of their murderers. Mr. Edwards may want to defend that, but I won't, no matter how unpopular it is.

Kevin "Crusading Outsider" Weaver  
Pacifica, CA

## Gary: phone home

I have been searching for Gary Alan Kindsvatter for over a year. Gary is my ex-brother-in-law, and lives in the San Francisco area. His last known address was 161 Leavenworth #21 in San Francisco.

My reason for attempting to contact him is simple. His mother and father are in poor health, and his mother is especially anxious to talk with him. Time is of the essence. All I ask is that he call home. If you could be of assistance, I will be forever grateful. Gary doesn't have a driver's license or a telephone, and I can't get enough time off to come to California.

If anyone can help, please e-mail me at krichardson@nextek.net, write or call me at (740) 349-6413 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Captain Ken E. Richardson, M.Ed.  
Administrative Services Division Commander  
Licking County Sheriff  
Newark, Ohio

## Bi Golly

In the October 29 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* a very interesting article by Victoria A. Brownworth, "Tricks & Treats," unfortunately misrepresents GLAAD's view of the character of Detective Tim Bayliss on NBC's *Homicide*. Ms. Brownworth states that GLAAD "continues to refer to him as a 'gay' character." In fact, since January 2, 1998 when Bayliss first started to question his sexual orientation, GLAAD had lauded the program for its groundbreaking "bisexual" representation. Just last month we encouraged our thousands of GLAADAlert subscribers to write the show and NBC and acknowledge them for "groundbreaking dramatic television – television that does not demonize or belittle bisexual people."

While every LGBT organization strives for inclusiveness, I strongly believe that the work GLAAD has done in the past few years regarding bisexual and transgender issues represents our strong commitment to lobby for our *entire* community in both the news and entertainment media.

William Horn  
GLAAD Assistant Entertainment Media Director  
Los Angeles, CA

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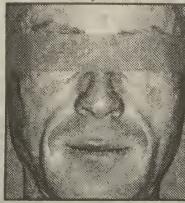
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## LETTERS

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## Working after the vigils

I think that candlelight vigils, with a few hours of sadness, weeping, anger and outrage, are a good thing. These things get on television and everybody feels better. We have done something.

But I think that we constantly need to remind our queer and non-queer friends and enemies about the murderous attacks and the physical and verbal threats against us. Certainly these murders, attacks and assaults will not stop with statewide and national hate crime laws that include sexual orientation. However, passage of such laws would be a recognition of a problem which many of us acknowledge. It is important for us to remember that queers are not the only targets of hate crimes and that people of color and other different people are also targets of the haters.

I got a wonderful "Hate is Not a Family Value" button from P-FLAG a few years ago. I try to wear this button on weekends and evenings. I wear it for Matthew Shepard and all the other victims of hate crimes. I'm going to wear it everywhere until there are more queer-inclusive state hate crimes laws and until there is a national queer-inclusive hate crimes law.

For various reasons it would not be appropriate for me to wear this button at my two jobs.

I feel that this is something I can do after the vigil has ended.

James Bill  
Sunnyvale, CA

## Fighting after the vigils

I could not sleep last night or the night before. I woke up with the same thoughts and anger of yesterday and the many days that have passed since an innocent life in Wyoming was snuffed out just because he was gay.

My blood boils when I am reminded of his death and so many others. I watched the news the day of his funeral. I watched his family cry, plead for peace and bury their child amongst protesters shouting hateful slogans outside of the church.

I must ask, Why must we be constantly aware of our surroundings, ever on the lookout lest some self-righteous hateful soul, lurking in the shadows, deny us or someone we love the right to life and happiness? Why must we be the ones who justify our right to exist peacefully with the person we love? Why must we constantly struggle and plead with the powers that be for the rights that guaranteed to ALL individuals?

My heart, mind and soul screams, "No More!"

NO MORE!!! – That's what our predecessors at Stonewall said.

NO MORE!!! – That's what the Leather Community said when the Spanner men were imprisoned for safe and private play.

NO MORE!!! – That's what the Black Panthers and Black Muslims said when the messages of non-violence fell on deaf ears.

NO MORE!!! – That's what the Guardian Angels said when they took back the streets of New York City and helped to make them safe to walk on again.

I will not, cannot stand by and watch gays and lesbians, blacks and other innocents being denied the right to their very lives because of hate and bigotry. It's time to take a stand and fight back!!!

We cannot wait any longer for hate to be legislated out of our lives while we bury our dead before the mocking eyes of intolerance. Strike me or one of my sisters and brothers and I will go down fighting. At least I will die knowing I took one or more gay bashers bastards with me. Maybe the next time they will think twice before attacking another one of my kind.

I will love and hate doing it at the same time.

We all can make a difference by rallying the gay and leather community to once again take the lead in setting up self defense classes so we will no longer be victims of attacks.

We all can make a difference by becoming Leather Angels, patrolling our havens and making it safer to enter and leave gay and leather establishments.

We all can make a difference by making sure our brothers and sisters know that no hate crime will fade silently away and be forgotten.

Gay bashing is heralding in the second Stonewall. I remember history. I was there, and I say *no more!!!* It's time to fight back!!!

Jill Carter  
Viola Johnson  
San Francisco

## Kushner's Passion

In the November 9 issue of *The Nation*, Tony Kushner has an article entitled "Matthew's Passion" – the best commentary on the Matthew Shepard slaying/crucifixion and our issues generally that I've seen in years, perhaps ever. He takes Trent Lott et al. to task in language that I only wish I would have seen years ago from our so-called "leaders" on the local and national levels. This is an absolute *must read* for all of us who are affected, concerned, or in any way involved with our issues and our rights.

Animal J. Smith  
New York, NY

## Back for more food

Congratulations to A.L. Allen and MAC for bringing back Charity Dinners. It has been awhile; first with Allen's neck surgery and then the closing of the Embassy. We missed the Blue Plate dinners.

The first dinner, November 4, was a spaghetti dinner for \$5, which included salad and garlic bread, or for \$10 diners could have baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, and peas. I had both. The spaghetti sauce was outstanding.

I'm looking forward to the \$10 pre-Thanksgiving turkey dinner this Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.

I know Allen must have done some real hard soul searching to decide to have them at the Rawhide. I heard Ray Chalker helped out a lot. Let's hope it's the beginning of a new era. The VA Hospital Volunteer Service can sure use the money.

Richard Snelles  
San Francisco

## Open season

Every time I read about an "openly gay" person hired for some organization (like the SF Pride Committee) I wonder if some day an article will begin "A closeted gay man was elected ... blah, blah, blah."

I thought using the term "openly gay" and "avowedly gay" was something perpetrated by newspaper or TV writers who haven't yet made it into the 20th century, but I see it all the time in the B.A.R. Please stop!

Thornton Kimes  
San Francisco

*[The openly gay editor responds: When we use the phrase it is to describe someone who is not only out of the closet, but somewhat assertively so. However, we'll examine our policy and re-evaluate the practice.]*

## The word that dare not speak its name

I loved your editorial "For a Lost Shepard" October 15, but why do you join Fred Phelps's hatemongers and call us "queers"? I notice each time I get the B.A.R. that you folks use it several times.

I was in San Francisco at the time of Harvey Milk, and we all fought so hard to get rid of the use of that word in the gay community.

Please, please, quit calling gays "queer."

Ray Leland Paley  
Mt. Shasta, CA

*[Some other readers feel the word "gay" is overly narrow, referring only to homosexual men. The other word choices are clinical or lengthy, or both, and after the Pride Committee chose the title "Year of the Queer" in 1993 we thought the word had gained credibility in the community. However, we'll examine our policy and re-evaluate the practice.]*

## New trial for Mumia

I am writing you to ask why there has been little or no coverage of the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. This is an incredibly newsworthy story. There is a mass movement of hundreds of thousands of people around the world demanding a new trial for Mumia. This movement is now joined by the new Chancellor of Germany, the President of Italy and many other leaders and organizations around the world including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the ACLU, FAIR, and many others.

It is obvious from the facts that Mumia did not receive anything resembling a fair trial.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was a Philadelphia radio journalist and recipient of a Major Armstrong award for journalism. He was the president of the Association of Black Journalists Philadelphia. Seventeen years ago he was accused of killing a Philadelphia police officer. He was convicted of this crime and has been on death row ever since.

The facts in this case clearly show his innocence and this could be proven with a new trial. Some of the evidence of his innocence is as follows. The officer was shot with a .44 caliber bullet. Mumia's gun was a .38. William Singletary told the police that he saw another man kill the officer and flee the scene. Singletary was intimidated by police and forced to leave the city. All the other witnesses in the case were threatened by police.

Please, in the name of good journalism and fair reporting you must cover this story. Not to do so is not only bad journalism it is tacit participation in the murder of an innocent man.

James Ferrigno  
San Francisco

*[There are literally thousands of newsworthy stories that we cannot write about in the B.A.R. due to space limitations and finite resources. Although we haven't reported extensively on Mumia because he is what one might call "openly heterosexual," we have reported on past Bay Area marches that called attention to his case, because many of the participants and organizers have been lesbian and gay.]*

## POLITICS

# Gore, Bush early 2000 favorites

by Wayne Friday

Not only did the November 3 off-year general election produce a few surprises – Republicans' unexpectedly poor showing and a resurgence in the political fortunes of President Bill Clinton and his party – it also made it perfectly clear who the current front-runners are for the two major parties' 2000 presidential nominations.

Vice President Al Gore, with political pay-back chits galore from successful Democratic candidates across the country, is off and running for his party's nomination to succeed Clinton. Only weeks ago the veep was expecting to battle House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt for the Democratic party nod in 2000, but Gephardt is less likely run for president now that the party has picked up five House seats and only needs six more in the next general election to take control.

Those close to Gephardt say he has long wanted to be speaker, and would prefer to take that job if Democrats regain control of the House. A run for president would require him to raise millions of dollars in a fight with Gore, and his likely decision to stay focused on the speaker job will help clear the way for a more united party behind the vice president in 2000. A maverick Democrat or two could still enter the sweepstakes – possibly Jesse Jackson, Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, or another long shot – but clearly Gore is now the Democrat to beat for the nomination. Most party leaders assume that, barring some political mishap that Gore is not likely to make, it's all his in 2000.

Some Democratic party brokers are already suggesting possible running mates for Gore, including California's new governor, Gray Davis; Indiana's new senator, Evan Bayh; and New York's new senator, Charles Schumer. Some party strategists think a woman should be on the 2000 ticket are reportedly holding out for Senator Dianne Feinstein, and the senior California senator is known to be a favorite of Gore's.

Among Republicans, the party favorite has to be Texas Governor George W. Bush, who won re-election in that politically important state November 3 by doing something few other Republicans have figured out how to do – he won big among Hispanic voters, taking nearly half of that vote; received nearly three-quarters of the female vote; attracted one third of the voters in Texas who call themselves Democrats; and won six of every 10 self-described independent voters.

However, Bush's associates say he has genuine misgivings about running for president in 2000, and even with his current high spot in GOP hearts he wouldn't take the nod without a fight from others like former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, millionaire publisher Steve Forbes,

former veep Dan Quayle, and a couple of ambitious House members. Early betting has it that if Bush should win the GOP nod in 2000, he, too, would possibly look to a woman as his vice president choice; the choice would likely be narrowed to New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman or Elizabeth Dole, wife of the 1994 presidential nominee. Leading male possibilities for the second spot on a Bush ticket include New York Governor George Pataki and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge; some wouldn't even rule out George Bush's brother, the newly elected governor of Florida, Jeb Bush.

Both Bush and Gore have the names and the ability to raise the necessary big bucks, and if you asked insiders to bet on the likely choices to replace Clinton in the year 2000, most would tell you that a Gore-Bush race is the safest bet – for now. But two years can be a long time in presidential politics and "outsiders" whose names have not even been mentioned yet could change the game before the early March 2000 primaries.

#### Politics and people

Only 36 percent of Americans voted November 3 – fewer than any election since 1942 – but the results put to rest any notion that a low voter turnout always benefits the Republicans: turnout was down in California, where Democrat Davis won the gubernatorial race, and also in another large state, New York, where Democrats defeated a longtime GOP U.S. senator.

Okay, so the 1998 election was no "Year of the Woman," but it was not all that bad: women gained two House seats, for a record 56, while holding steady with nine U.S. Senate seats and three governorships. In one historic milestone, Democrat Tammy Baldwin, who won a Wisconsin open-seat race, became the first openly lesbian woman elected to Congress, joining Representatives Barney Frank and Jim Kolbe. (Now if those two others would just come out of the closet, D.C. could have a new gay/lesbian house caucus.) Baldwin not only became the first openly gay non-incumbent to win a federal office, but also the first woman that state has ever sent to Congress.

And although lesbian Colonel Grethe Cammermeyer lost in a close race for Washington state's 2nd district congressional seat, the retired U.S. Army officer who became a celebrity when she was dismissed from the military after disclosing her sexuality (but was later reinstated) is now the favorite to win the seat in two years, upon the retirement of the Republican who edged her out.

Closer to home, the gay and lesbian community lost one voice on the S.F. Community College Board when Andrea Shorter, Mayor Willie Brown's appointee, failed to get re-elected.

The San Francisco consultant firm of Staton and Hughes came out a big winner on November 3,

winning 10 of its 11 races, including the San Jose mayor's race; Berkeley mayor's race; congressional winners, including Mike Thompson (D-1st Congressional District), Ellen Tauscher (D-10th), and Anna Eshoo (D-14th); and the hard-fought race for state superintendent of public instruction, where incumbent Delaine Eastin won.

East Bay Democrat Don Perata was re-elected to the Assembly and elected to the state Senate November 3; Perata was already on the ballot for re-election to the Assembly before the Senate seat became vacant. Perata is resigning the Assembly seat immediately to take the upper house seat, and a special Assembly election will be held in February. Oakland's outgoing Mayor Elihu Harris is the early favorite to take that Assembly seat, which he held before becoming mayor.

Governor-elect Davis' big win has already started the job gossip (16 years has been a very long time to wait, folks) and one current rumor has the new governor appointing longtime S.F. Public Defender Jeff Brown to a judgeship at the first opportunity. Mayor Brown would then appoint Kim Burton, the head of the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council (and the daughter of state Senator John Burton) to the job of Public Defender. (Wait until this rumor hits the P.D.'s office on 7th Street!).

Also, those supposedly in the know predict that Supervisor Jose Medina is surely headed for a Davis post in Sacramento.

The November 3 election was a bad day for those who kissed up to the Christian right in California – senate candidate Matt Fong, gubernatorial candidate Dan Lungren, treasurer candidate Curt Pringle, and Orange County state Senator Rob Hurt (long a bankroller of right-wing candidates) – all took a drubbing. A local Republican friend of mine predicted, while bemoaning the Democratic Party win in the state, "Despite all this, the Republicans will never let loose of their position on the abortion issue, one that beats us every time."

Meanwhile, I'm told that Newt Gingrich, Trent Lott, and others in the Republican leadership in D.C. are standing in a circular firing squad and blaming each other for what their party didn't do this election year. Excuse those of us who are smiling a bit, but if Lott had spent less time talking about those "kleptomaniac" gays and blocking the appointment of gay ambassadors, and more time thinking about what the American voter really cares about, his coveted "leadership" job wouldn't be in jeopardy when the GOP House caucus meets next.

Since the heat in the kitchen also got a bit to warm for Newt – he's not only stepping down as house speaker but is resigning his congressional seat as well – maybe we could convince his lesbian sister Candace Gingrich to move to Atlanta and run in the special election.

Finally, don't tell Mayor Brown about this, but I saw two guys on Castro Street the other day with "Tom Ammiano for Mayor" T-shirts. ▼



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# Election '98 coverage misses 'gay vote'

by Liz Tracey, GLAAD publications manager

While the 1998 elections held both triumphs (the election of Tammy Baldwin from Wisconsin as the first openly lesbian candidate ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives) and setbacks (the passage of constitutional hurdles to the freedom to marry in both Alaska and Hawaii), one might have never known about these gains and losses from the scarce mention of our issues in the majority of election coverage.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) press did a tremendous job covering the issues and candidates, but most mainstream outlets gave little or passing reference to the landmark results across the country. Those included the aforementioned votes in Hawaii and Alaska and the election of Baldwin; the defeat of openly lesbian candidates Margaret the Cammermeyer (Washington state) and Christine Kehoe (California) for the U.S. House of Representatives, and the re-election of openly gay Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona). In addition, many outlets neglected to cover the pivotal role that LGBT voters played in significant races, including the defeat of Matt Fong for California senator, and Representative Charles Schumer's election to the U.S. Senate in New York.

An off-year election might

seem less important than a presidential year, but in fact this year, many local, state and congressional races, as well as local and state ballot initiatives were closely watched by many. From major newsmagazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report* to local newspapers, from the major networks to local television news – ignoring these important contests does not only a disservice to their LGBT consumers, but their audience as a whole. In addition, the conspicuous lack of coverage leads the audience at large to believe that our issues are somehow less important than others in contention this year.

A high point was coverage from the Associated Press, which ran a mostly inclusive voter exit poll, asking respondents whether they identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (although they did not include transgender individuals). While the number seemed low (only 4 percent responded "yes"), nonetheless, AP should be commended for their "vote for diversity" heard.

In addition, AP's Wednesday, November 4 story "Voters in Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado deals gay rights a setback" rounded up the various local and state rights initiatives, in addition to the Alaska and Hawaii freedom to marry referendum.

It would be impossible to list all of the outlets which neglected

or gave short shrift to the election issues of most concern to us. If your local media neglected important races or issues that were of concern to the LGBT community, you should let them know that it was irresponsible and unappreciated.

You can find contact information for them online at GLAAD Online at <http://www.glaad.org>. (Many newspapers and television stations have online response forms and e-mail addresses that can be found by searching the web by their call letters (e.g., "KNOO-TV" or publication names). In order for us to be sure that coverage is inclusive, it is essential that outlets know that their readers and viewers insist upon the inclusion of pertinent LGBT issues in their reporting. Just as you make your voice heard,

Contact: Ms. Julia Rubin, News Editor, Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10020-1266, fax: (212) 621-1679.

## LGBTs out of the closet and in the Rear Window

This Sunday, November 22 at 9 p.m., ABC will air a television remake of the 1954 Alfred Hitchcock thriller *Rear Window*, which now includes a gay couple, played by Marc Holzman and David Pittu. The movie, starring

Christopher Reeve and Daryl Hannah, tells the story of a man paralyzed after a serious car accident, who spends hours watching his neighbors from his apartment window. Eventually, he believes he has witnessed a brutal murder. Numerous camera pans across the apartment building reveal several couples, including a gay male couple who are affectionately shown feeding each other, having a dinner party and playing charades with a lesbian couple.

Reeve's reaction to all the couples seems to signal his own character's feelings of isolation and loneliness after his accident. He perceives the close bond and affection the gay couple has towards one another no differently than any of the other couples he views from his window. Their sexual orientation is simply not an issue.

Tune in to *Rear Window* and acknowledge the producers and ABC for recognizing the reality and visibility of lesbians and gay men as part of our neighborhoods and communities.

Contact: Mssrs. Christopher Reeve, Steven Haft, Robert Halmi, Jr. and David V. Picker, Executive Producers, *Rear Window*, c/o Haft Entertainment, 130 W. 57th St., 5-E, New York, NY 10019; and Mr. Kevin Brockman, VP of Media Relations, ABC Television Network, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067. E-mail ABC at [netadr@abc.com](mailto:netadr@abc.com) or call ABC at (310) 557-7777 and ask to be connected to the audience response line.

## Smart women, foolish assumptions

In Abigail Van Buren's November 5 *Dear Abby* column, the advice maven hands out a short, smart, and sharp response to a woman confronting a common problem shared by many in the LGBT community. Stating she is a lesbian, "D" says she finds that every time a female friend learns that she's gay, they expect her to come on to them. "D" asks "How can I change my personality to maintain friendships without my kindness being mistaken for anything more?"

Abby replies: "I see no reason for you to change your personality. There is a common misconception in the straight world that because people are gay, they must be attracted to ALL people of the same gender. When it happens again, keep your sense of humor and show the friend this column."

Kudos to Abby, and please thank her for her insightful and intelligent reply.

Contact: Ms. Abigail Van Buren, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Is there a heaven for scientists?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Is there an afterlife? Yes, according to the traditional teachings of several faiths. But for homos like you and me it may not be a pleasant one. Pushing rocks up slopes for all eternity — that kind of thing.

In rebellion against these teachings, some gays and lesbians switch their allegiance to gay-affirmative churches and temples, where queers have the same shot at salvation as everyone else. Others abandon their belief in an afterlife altogether. If you happen to be a brain scientist, as I am, you'll be doubly driven in that direction. For most brain scientists see the mind as nothing more than the operation of the brain, and how could the mind possibly continue to exist after the brain is eaten by worms?

Yet, in one of the most surprising developments in an entire century of surprising science, some scientists now claim to see the possibility, perhaps even the inevitability, of life after death. The evidence comes, not from brain science or near-death experiences or religious teachings, but from quantum mechanics (QM).

How to explain QM in an 850-word column? Basically, QM says that, at the level of small particles such as photons (units of light or other radiation), events can only be described in terms of probabilities. As a photon leaves a lamp, for example, it does not go in one

particular direction: rather, it goes in all possible directions, though with differing probabilities. The mathematical expression describing this behavior is called the photon's wave function. If, however, we perform any observation or measurement of the photon, we will see that it has moved along only one of all its possible paths — generally one of the most probable paths. In other words, the act of observation causes the photon's wave function to "collapse" to a unique solution.

This strange behavior of photons was first observed in the 1920s. Later it was found that larger particles, such as atoms, behave in the same way. It's believed that much larger objects, including human beings and even the entire universe, show the same behavior, although it's far beyond our capabilities to demonstrate that experimentally. But the acceptance of QM raises a difficult question: how does observation cause a wave function to collapse? After wrestling with this problem for decades, one school of physicists has concluded that wave functions do not in fact collapse at all, but only seem to the observer to do so.

The no-collapse interpretation of QM is a profound challenge to our intuitive understanding of the world around us, for it implies that all possible outcomes of an event actually happen. You did and you did not graduate from college. You came out as gay and you stayed in the closet. Our uni-



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## Queer Science

verse must keep branching into countless new universes in which the various outcomes of each event are played out. You exist in many of these universes, but to each copy of you only one universe is apparent. That universe will likely be one of the most probable universes in which you can exist — i.e., a universe with simple, constant physical laws permitting the evolution of human beings, with few or no "miracles" along the way.

What happens, then, when we die? One scientist who has thought about this from a QM perspective is artificial-intelligence researcher Hans Moravec of Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. When I visited Moravec's lab recently, he laid out his belief that consciousness is not a physical entity but a matter of interpretation: we are free to view humans (and computers) as directed either by thought or by electrical circuits. After we die, according to Moravec, there are still worlds in which our consciousness can interpret itself to exist, and it is therefore in one of those

page 22 ▶

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# Slasher/vampire apprehended

by Ron McGlashan, SFPD  
Office of Public Affairs

**S**uspected killer Joshua Rudiger was taken into police custody Tuesday, November 10.

The suspect is being held to answer for the October 22 murder of Shirley Dillahunt, which occurred in front of the Women's Building on 18th Street near Valencia, and three other near-fatal knife attacks in San Francisco. Rudiger was on probation at the time of the slayings.

Rudiger has claimed he is a vampire, and will undergo an extensive psychiatric evaluation before any further steps are taken by the San Francisco District Attorney's office.

## Assault on Cedar Alley

**S**aturday, November 14, 10 p.m.: A man was approached on Polk and Cedar Alley by two men who wanted to sell the man some crack. When the victim said no, one of the suspects hit the man

in the face and went into one of the local strip clubs. The men responsible rotated between Larkin Street and Polk Street. A report has been made, and these guys are known by officers in the area.

## Laser light caution/citywide

Believe it or not, there have been isolated incidents where people have flashed laser lights in the direction of police officers. This is ill advised. An officer could mistake this as a light from a laser scope, which could lead to a serious problem. Put yourself in the place of the officer. Think.

## Ongoing prostitution traffic at Sutter and Polk

Because of the demands of the residents and merchants in the area, the SFPD has made this area a No Tolerance Zone for prostitutes and Johns. Either party caught in the act of solicitation will be cited. This includes the women who stand out in the middle of Polk Street flashing their wares at passing cars.

## Turf problems on Post and Polk

The intersection of Post and Polk streets has also been the scene of a "turf" problem among some of the population in the area. After reported incidents of people brandishing knives on this block, this area has also been made part of the Zero Tolerance program. Play nice.

## Home security update

After a relatively quiet Halloween night, there has not been much in the line of crime in the Polk and Castro neighborhoods. There are still incidents or minor crime and nuisance activities in both areas, but things are shaping up. Let's keep heads up and continue to work with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to make our community a showplace.

With the reduction in inci-

dents, let's address issues of public safety and crime prevention.

As the holiday season approaches, now might be a good time to pay special attention to the security of your home. Here are a few tips from Officer Sherman Ackerson of public affairs and the burglary detail that may assist you in making your home a more safe and secure place. Before we go any further, photograph the interior and exterior of your home in the event of a burglary or fire. Save the photos and film for the record.

1. At this time of the year, never leave your home in a state of darkness. Buy a timer for the lights in the living room and set it for the time you will be away from your residence. Tune your stereo to a news talk radio station and have it playing while you are out and about. The sound of conversation is a great way to scare off the intruder.

2. In the event that you will be vacationing during the holiday season, remember the light timer and for safety have a neighbor watch your home or have the police officers in the area conduct a passing call at your residence. Leave a number with a neighbor where you can be reached in the event of an emergency.

3. Most insurance policies cover you in the event that you are the victim of a burglary. Inventory your home and insure the items which may not be covered in your policy.

4. If your home is under construction, make certain that the contractor and employees are insured and bonded.

5. Scaffolding at a construction site makes a great way for the intruder to get to the open window or door of your home which you are having renovated. When the workers are not on the construction site, make certain all windows are locked from the inside.

6. In the event that your home

is burglarized and you are in the house at the time of the break in, do not challenge the burglar in the event that he or she is armed. Call the police if possible. If the person is armed, cooperate.

7. Remember the bike in the garage. Most bikes are stolen from garages in San Francisco, and in many cases the point of entry has been from the residential door to the garage. Record the serial number of the bike and secure it with a bike club. This has been mentioned in the past, but the numbers of bike thefts continue to escalate.

8. At this time of the year, it is a common mistake to have cash around the house. Don't do it. If you are going on vacation buy travelers checks. Other than that make use of your bank card and draw money as you need it.

9. If you have crawl space at the ground level of your home, hire a contractor and have it boarded up. This will prevent the intruder from getting easy access to the garage and basement area of your home. As the weather gets colder, this open space makes a tempting spot for someone to use as a crash site. This is a fire hazard for you and your neighbors.

10. Report any and all thefts to the SFPD and follow through with instructions from the officers afterwards.

11. Engrave your driver's license on your TV, VCR, radio, etc. Engravers are usually available to borrow at your local police station.

Some of these instructions may seem to challenge your common sense, but at this time of the year it is easy to get sidetracked. We want you to be around for the summer season to help us celebrate the 150th anniversary of the SFPD. Until next week, be safe. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs. If you have comments or suggestions, call Ron McGlashan at (415) 776-9399.

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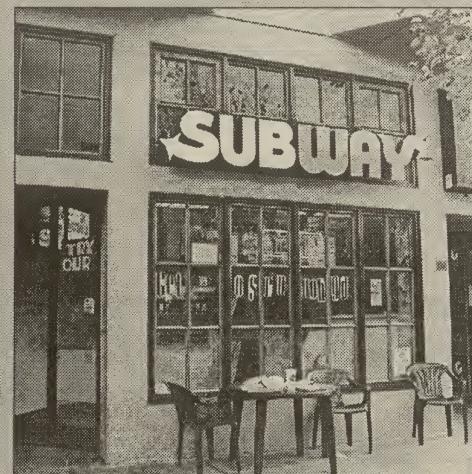
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## Armed take-out



**T**wo robbers hungry for cash entered the Subway Sandwich Shop at 2275 Market St. at about 7 p.m. on Friday, November 6, according to the San Francisco Patrol Special Police. While one of the suspects (both described as Latino males in their 20s) ordered subs, the other approached the clerk and held a knife to her ribs, demanding cash. The two escaped with four sandwiches and \$90. The clerk was unharmed.

Jane Philomen Cleland

## Halloween attack cabbie concealed prior incident

by Mark Norby

**S**an Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno is seeking action after a Halloween incident in which a driver from the Yellow Cab Company allegedly attacked gay bartender Rick Raymen of San Francisco, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. Leno has been in contact with Yellow Cab over the incident in the early morning hours after Halloween celebrations. [See "Gay man allegedly attacked by cab driver," November 5, and "Halloween attack cabbie found to have prior assault record," November 12] and has shared information regarding further developments.

Leno informed the B.A.R. that Nathan Dwiri, head operator of Yellow Cab, confirmed that driver Anthony Quinley was sacked by the De Soto Cab Company for assault on a pedestrian, and was later hired by Yellow Cab.

"It appears," said Leno, "that Quinley hid the prior incident and was hired by Yellow without them [Yellow Cab] knowing about the prior assault."

In a statement to the B.A.R. last Monday morning, Dwiri stated, "We don't do background checks on drivers. As long as they have a license to operate a cab that's all we need to hire them."

Raymen's attorney Brian Ripley told the B.A.R., "If in fact Yellow didn't do a background check on Quinley, then we have a real problem on our hands. This is a public safety issue."

"Yellow didn't even listen to Raymen's complaint [of assault]," he continued. "They actually hung up on him, as though they [Yellow Cab] had already tried and convicted him!"

After the incident, Raymen filed a restraining order against Quinley and blocked his telephone after reportedly receiving threatening calls. Despite the legal order, according to Ripley, Quinley appeared at Raymen's front door late Monday morning, "beg-

ging Raymen to help him get his job back at Yellow."

"If Quinley has been served with papers of the restraining order," Ripley said, "then he's in violation of that order."

Supervisor Gavin Newsom, who serves on a citywide task force looking into cab issues, told the B.A.R. Tuesday afternoon that reforms have been implemented to improve training and sensitivity among drivers.

"One of the things we've done is increase the number of driver-training hours that are required in order for one to receive a taxi driver's license," he said. "The number of training hours will be increased from 16 hours to 38. We have also implemented sensitivity training for drivers, doubling the amount of sensitivity training that was previously required."

"This training is especially important," continued Newsom, "not only for drivers to be sensitive to their passengers and their differences, but also because the number one per-capita rate of homicide in the country comes from taxi-related incidents."

In addition, 10 hours of additional apprenticeship training will be required by direction of the supervisor's office. Newsom is also working toward a system where background checks are standard in the consideration and hiring of drivers by the city's taxi co-ops. ▶

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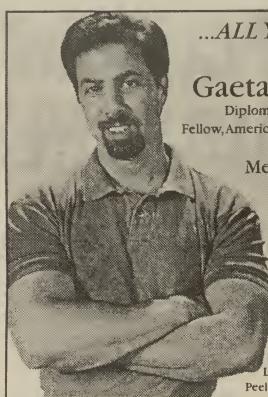
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\*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

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For men who want to maintain and even increase hair count, today is a most exciting day. **Talk to your doctor.**

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for men only. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men (58%) who continued taking PROPECIA.

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Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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# Everett Middle School students learn about AIDS, help raise funds for AEF

by Sam Curlee

**S**ixth graders at Everett Middle School have been tearing apart the furniture at home, walking to school with their heads down and their eyes on the sidewalk, and raiding mom's purse in a search for pennies.

Why?

Because they're set on winning the annual AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) penny drive.

Everett has participated in the "Every Penny Counts" drive four years in a row and this time they're determined to win. But to do that, they have to beat the other middle schools who are also participating. First place is a dance with a live DJ, sponsored by 94.9 FM.

Everett, located on Church street between 16th and 17th streets, is a large building with ceramic mosaics and a concrete play ground. It may seem a typical inner city school, but with programs like "kids aware of diversity" and its annual AEF penny contest, Everett is anything but typical.

cal.

Ken Wright, the teacher who started the school's penny drive, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that although the children are participating for the dance, many of them have known someone in their short lives who has HIV or has died from AIDS.

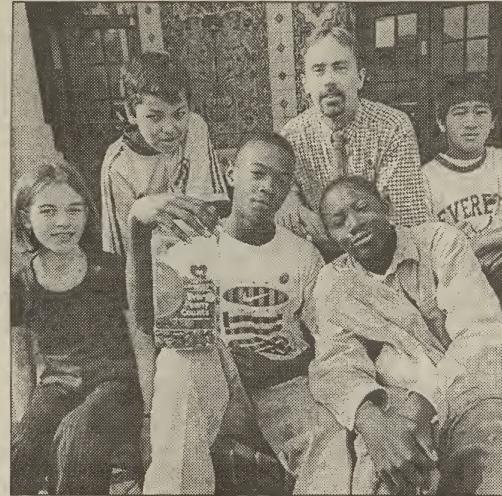
Wright noted that when he introduced the penny contest this year, his children responded with very adult questions. One of the most notable being, "Why are we doing this if there isn't a cure?"

Wright, an openly gay teacher, took the time to explain to his students that while there isn't a cure, people with AIDS can still benefit from food, medicine, and support.

It didn't take long for the students to take the idea, and run with it. One student even went so far as to donate the contents of his piggy bank.

Twelve-year-old Carlos, who recently immigrated here from Mexico, had firsthand experience with the virus when a friend of the family died of AIDS.

Emmett and DeMarcus, stu-



Everett Middle School teacher Ken Wright with his seventh graders.

And for the children who don't have firsthand experience with the virus, technical knowledge about transmission and prevention is already a part of their vocabulary.

One student described HIV to the *B.A.R.* as the virus that kills your immune system.

Emmett and DeMarcus said HIV was something you could get from dirty needles.

## Making Choices

Adolescents at Everett Middle School are taught about the virus during sex education and a course titled "Making Choices," so when they're faced with HIV or AIDS in their own life they understand how to prevent it and what it means when someone is HIV-positive.

Each of the 20 jars around campus has been filled and refilled by the eager kids. Even the teachers have gotten into the spirit of competition by keeping tallies on who has the most pennies. The daily bulletin will occasionally announce the winner of these "mini" contests.

AEF has been around since 1982, and provides emergency financial assistance to people facing difficulties related to their HIV disease, such as rent and utility bills.

Current estimates indicate that approximately one-third of people diagnosed with AIDS or disabling HIV disease exhaust their financial resources quickly and live at a subsistence level. These are the people served by AEF.

The children at Everett will also view a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt that's soon to be on display at their school. ▼

## Propecia™ (Finasteride) Tablets

PROPECIA™ is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

### What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY and should NOT be used by women or children.

### What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

### Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

### Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

### How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

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## Patient Information about PROPECIA®

**(Pro-pee-sha)**

Generic name: finasteride  
(fin-AS-tur-eyed)

### Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in MEN ONLY and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

### A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:

— must not use PROPECIA

— should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

### What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tendererness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

### Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-630-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

## Shadow Morton

◀ page 3

about recognition that we are already in the community," Morton said. "Much of our history has been rewritten by the gay and lesbian community. That's a form of hate violence committed against us."

In addition to financially supporting the causes that he has dedicated his energy to over the years, Morton also plans to give much of the money to his family and friends, and to others that have supported him throughout his life, which he sees as a spiritual journey. His spirituality is very important to him, and he chose his name, Shadow, which means "one who walks between many worlds," in recognition of Native American spiritual traditions.

"If there is one task in my life, it is to thank those who've touched my life and helped me to grow," Morton said, adding that he hoped that whoever nominated him learns that he is appreciative of the honor.

There are three other Stonewall Award recipients. Margarita Sanchez de Leon is a lesbian minister and pastoral leader of a Metropolitan Community Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico, who is challenging Puerto Rico's anti-sodomy law. Damian Pardo is a Cuban-American banker, AIDS and Hispanic community leader in Miami. Vernita Gray is a longtime Chicago African-American lesbian activist and is a specialist on hate crimes. ▼

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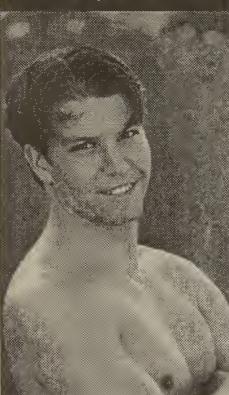
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# Dinner with an Empress

Or, how to raise money at a family reunion

by Mark Norby

Just ask Donna Sachet and she'll tell you. It's all about the first Empress and the first gay bar and a reunion. It's about "the Widow Norton," the Black Cat, and what it all means when some of the founders of our community come together at a benefit for the family.

It's about absolutes, straight up, and we're not talkin' vodka, honey!

Jose's back (though she never left) and the Giraffe Video Lounge is holding an auction this Friday, November 20 that will blow up her skirt once again. It will also give everyone an opportunity to share in a "small and informal buffet" (hey lady, how 'bout some chips!) and also give us a shot to bid on winning a dinner with an Emperor. Roy-yal!

If you're confused, you must be too young – and you need to get on down to the Giraffe on Polk Street and learn what's up!

We are talking buffet. We are talking door prizes. We are talking a silent auction (you can almost hear the silence right now). We're talking "A Family Reunion: Emperor Style," sponsored by the likes of our beloved Muni, Safeway, the Phone Booth bar, Marlena's, Daddy's, Hot Tubs, (you

may need to bring your overnight case), the Huntington Hotel, Nob Hill Florist, Davida, Jewel's is Delight, Stephan of Fine Art, Graphics and Theatrical Design, and Chablis the "Imperial Crown Princess."

The door prizes include Safeway grocery certificates; a December Muni Pass Pass [sic!]; a Hot Tubs gift certificate; bar tabs, T-shirts, and more.

Oh! And dinner with an Emperor.

The auction items include a leather jacket; professional hair styling at 77 Maiden Lane; an autographed calendar of Elvira; and a silver-plated after-dinner drink set. Enough said? Pull over.

"It's gonna be de-licious!" say organizers. "Proceeds are gonna benefit ev-rybody."

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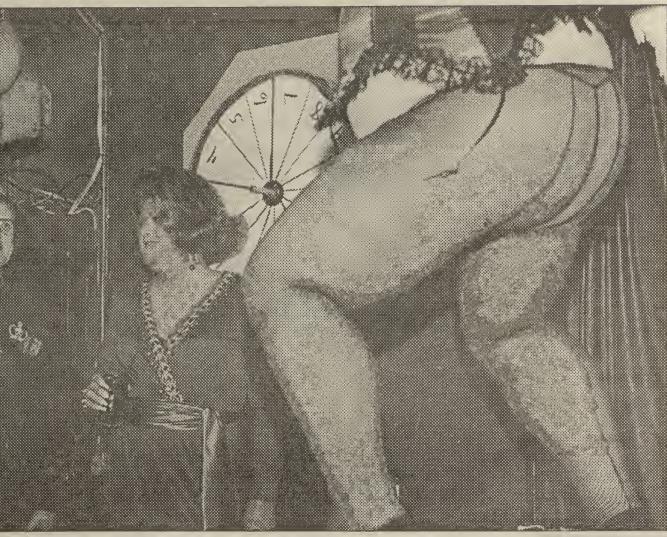


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## STUDY OF LESBIANS AND THEIR SISTERS

University professor is looking for volunteers to complete a survey about how lesbians and their sisters are similar or different. To participate, please contact:

Esther Rothblum, Box 1129, John Dewey Hall, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, tel. 802-656-4156, email esther.rothblum@uvm.edu and leave mailing address.



Rick Gerhardt

'Tis the season to be jolly, as was former Empress Marlena (center) at her 59th birthday bash on Saturday, November 14, where she enjoyed the company of friend Matthew Brown (left) and a well-fed entertainer.

Donna Sachet, Absolute Empress XXX, will host the auction, and promises to bring along other "surprise auctioners."

The Widow Norton, aka Empress Jose I (the first!) will be escorted by a throng of Emperors and she promises, really promises, a night of memories.

Hail to the Royal Court! ▼

**"Family Reunion Emperor Style"** begins at 6 p.m. at the Giraffe Video Lounge, 1131 Polk Street. Suggested donation of \$3 gets you in on some or all of the above.

# LAVA opens nominations for '99 awards

by Cynthia Laird

The Lesbians of Achievement and Vision (LAVA) award honoree selection committee will accept nominations for the 1999 ceremony until the end of this month, according to committee chair Jody Cole, who emphasized the committee seeks nominations from throughout the Bay Area and is committed to recognizing lesbians from diverse communities.

Cole noted that the goals of the LAVA awards are threefold: to honor and recognize lesbians who have made significant contributions to the community; to increase lesbian visibility; and to raise funds for Bay Area Career Women's (BACW) "A Fund of Our Own," which provides support to lesbian organizations and projects in the greater Bay Area. The fund is administered by the Horizons Foundation.

"The LAVA awards were founded in 1993 to promote a positive and empowering image of lesbians both within our community and in our larger society as a whole," said Cole. "Participation in the LAVA awards is one way to further our commitment to gain dignity, acceptance, and justice for all lesbians."

The committee looks for five criteria in nominees: the nomi-

nee's work enhancing the image, empowerment, or understanding of lesbians; a demonstrated excellence in any of a variety of areas of achievement; a willingness to be out to the press; having specific, identifiable accomplishments that demonstrates leadership; and residence in the nine-county Bay Area or Modesto.

Nominees can be from a variety of fields, including arts, athletics, business, community service, education, law, politics, spirituality, the trades, and several others.

Cole said the committee encourages re-submission of previous nominees, as many more nominations are received than can be given awards.

Since its founding in 1989, "A Fund of Our Own" has provided more than \$200,000 in grants to lesbian projects and organizations. Since the LAVA awards began supporting the fund, proceeds from the dinner event have been a significant source of funding.

The awards will be presented on March 13 at a dinner and dance celebration. ▼

The deadline for nomination forms and supporting materials is Monday, November 30. To get a nomination form or for more information, call Ron Wong and Associates at (415) 920-9764.

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## New site for services



Jane Philpot/Cleve

**V**olunteer Gilberto Haro helped set up the computer lab at the new ABC Positive Resource Center location at 976 Market Street. The move integrated all the agency's services at one location, explained Ken Bukowski, executive director. Now counseling and employment services will be available under one roof.

# Let's party like it's Pride 1999

Theme announced, logo contest planned

by Cynthia Laird

**T**he general membership of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee overwhelmingly voted for "Proud Heritage, Powerful Future," as the theme for next year's pride celebration on Tuesday, November 10. The 1999 pride celebration takes place June 26 and 27.

The theme was chosen from among three finalist suggestions drawn from an original list of 33 proposals. Teddy Witherington, executive director of the pride committee, said the "Proud Heritage, Powerful Future" theme is a variation of the theme "Prideful Past, Powerful Future," that was chosen by InterPride, the international association of LGBT pride coordinators, as the international pride theme for 1999.

"Proud Heritage, Powerful Future" will therefore be a local theme with an international resonance," said Witherington. He added that the next phase in the theme development will be the logo. A public competition is taking place with a \$500 prize for the winner. Anyone interested in entering the logo contest should contact the pride office for details.

Witherington added, "The theme acknowledges the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and also looks forward with confidence to obtaining our rights, achieving our social acceptance, and empowering ourselves as proud LGBT people in the new millennium."

"Proud Heritage," while referring to the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, is broader than that and respects the many achievements of the queer community since Stonewall and even before. The heritage aspect is also a reminder to all people of the reasons why LGBT pride is celebrated and when it is celebrated. "As such, it taps into a renewed sense of identity within our communities and a rising passion for rediscovering who we are as a people and the struggles we have endured, and continue to endure, on the road to equality," Witherington said.

The heritage aspect is also designed to help people remember

the struggle and to remember all the victims of homophobia.

"Powerful Future" takes the sum of LGBT heritage and casts it into a renewed rallying call to everyone to combine strength as a community and overcome the obstacles of institutionalized ignorance and oppression. It's a positive message and one that looks to the youth in the LGBT community as the next generation of leaders into the new millennium.

"We have come so far in achieving social acceptance and political power here in San Fran-

cisco," said Calvin Gipson, pride president. "The pride event is a time to look back and honor ourselves and those who have paved the way for our freedom and the comforts that we enjoy. Yet, we must look forward to the future and the future of queer children with confidence as we demand our civil rights, command social acceptance, and overcome violence and homophobia.

"Proud Heritage, Powerful Future" should speak to all of us as proud lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. ▼



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HIV drugs should be taken on time, every day. That's the only way known to keep enough of each drug in your blood at all times to fight HIV.

### **The bottom line:**

Why help the virus hurt you? Next time you're tempted to skip a dose or two, think again...or else a 'minor' drug holiday could end up being a serious threat to your health. Don't let your vacation put HIV back to work.

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References: 1. CAESAR Coordinating Committee. Randomized trial of addition of lamivudine or lamivudine plus zidovudine to zidovudine-containing regimens for patients with HIV-1 infection: the CAESAR trial. *Lancet*. 1997; 349:1413-1421. 2. Hammer SM, Squirs KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus indinavir in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med*. 1997;337:725-733.

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Please see brief summary for Combivir on adjacent page.

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The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

**WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY.**

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**INDICATIONS AND USAGE:** COMBIVIR is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

**Description of Clinical Studies:** COMBIVIR: There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPIVIR 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine:** The NC83007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized (1:2). A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 64% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death**

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPIVIR plus a NNRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

\*An investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

**CONTRAINICATIONS:** COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

**WARNINGS:** COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

**Bone Marrow Suppression:** COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR.

**Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis:** Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatalities, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including zidovudine and lamivudine. The majority of these cases have occurred in patients with advanced HIV disease. Treatment with COMBIVIR to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease, treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity. Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine, and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

**PRECAUTIONS:**

**General:** Reduction of doses of lamivudine is recommended for patients with low body weight (less than 50 kg or 110 lb); therefore patients with low body weight should not receive COMBIVIR.

**Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Coinfection:** In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

**Patients With Impaired Renal Function:** Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance <50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

**Information for Patients:** COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illness associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to other sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

**Drug Interactions:** Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon-alpha, and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:**

**Lamivudine:** Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine was administered orally at three dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, seven late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (five nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, one squamous cell papilloma, and one squamous poly) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months) nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately three times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the lungs or other organs in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (1–1000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or <450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from day 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

**Mutagenicity:** Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK<sup>+</sup> mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

**Impairment of Fertility:** Lamivudine: In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

**Zidovudine:** Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

**Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C:** COMBIVIR: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

**Lamivudine:** Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryotoxicity was seen at the normal doses, but no teratogenic effect in the usual adult dose was observed. No evidence of teratogenic effect in the rat was observed when zidovudine doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose, studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that zidovudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

**Zidovudine:** Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 225 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. The dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less.

**Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry:** To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-268-4263.

**Nursing Mothers:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breastfeed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

**COMBIVIR:** Zidovudine is secreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics). Nursing Mothers subsection of full prescribing information; however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed not to breastfeed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.

**Pediatric Use:** COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:**

**Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations:** In four randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

**Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (>5% Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day**

Adverse Event	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
<b>Body as a whole</b>	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
<b>Digestive</b>	
Nausea	33%
Diarrhea	18%
Nausea & vomiting	13%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
<b>Nervous system</b>	
Neuropathy	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
<b>Respiratory</b>	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
<b>Skin</b>	
Skin rashes	9%
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials.

Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day\***

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC <750/mm <sup>3</sup> )	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb <8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.4% (240)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

\*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

**Observed During Clinical Practice:** In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR.

**Endocrine and Metabolic:** Hyperglycemia.

**General:** Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

**Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas:** Lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis.

**Musculoskeletal:** Muscle weakness with CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

**Nervous:** Seizures.

**Skin:** Alopecia, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria.

**OVERDOSE:**

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

**Lamivudine:** One of an adult ingesting 5 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hemodialysis tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

**Zidovudine:** One of an adult ingesting 1200 mg of zidovudine was reported in a pediatric patient and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, diarrhea, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GZDV, is enhanced.

**DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:** The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is one tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

**Dose Adjustment:** Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance <50 mL/min), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

US Patent No. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; and 4,837,208

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# PACER conference boasts events for gay adopters and adoptees

by Mark Norby

**P**ACER (Post Adoption Center for Education and Research) is working to find more effective ways for lesbian and gay couples to adopt. As the center hosted the annual American Adoption Congress Regional Conference last weekend, November 12-15 in San Francisco, it featured a workshop, "Alternative Families," to tackle the issues and procedures surrounding gay and lesbian adoption.

The theme of this year's conference, "Education, Healing, Unity - May the Circle be Unbroken," offered several ways to participate, from adoption for couples to opportunities for adoptees to learn about methods of searching for birth parents.

For couples wanting to adopt, according to PACER spokesperson Laura Ingram, "the conference brings together an exceptional lineup of cutting-edge thinkers, writers, practitioners and activists in the fast-changing world of adoption. A world that is - for many in the lesbian and gay community - fast-changing only in terms of the frustrations lesbians and gays face in the bureaucratic complexity of adoption."

The Bay Area is one "of critical mass; the sheer number of lesbian and gay couples wanting to adopt is unprecedented in the world," Ingram told the *Bay Area Reporter*. And with this in mind, PACER hoped to inspire other adoption congresses to work to further the opportunity for lesbian and gay couples to adopt.

The second point of participation - adoptees searching for their birth parents - is where the broken circle becomes whole again. "We aim to break down the barriers of fear, shame, and ignorance that have too often divided people who are in fact related, so that the family circle adoption creates may be truly unbroken," said Ingram.

In this area PACER also sought to provide a groundbreaking environment that included lesbian and gay youth adoptees and their problems in dealing with the gay experience in adopted families.

Speakers included psychologist Betty Jean Lifton, author of *Lost and Found* and other classic works on the adoption experience; keynote speaker Joseph Chilton Pearce, who is internationally known as an expert on child development.



Lesbians and gays learned about adoption last Sunday, November 15.

opment and the impact of mother-child separation and subsequent bonding; and a panel of authors and several activists engaged on the front lines in child welfare, social work, open adoption, search and reunion, and advocacy.

Openly lesbian comedian Reno kicked off the weekend with a performance at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway. Reno, called the

"Madonna of comedy," has had several off-Broadway shows and is presently focusing on the release of her HBO special, *Reno Finds Her Mom*, in which she tracks down the mother who gave her up at birth. ▼

For more information, call PACER at (925) 935-6622.

## Same-sex marriage 'defense' on California 2000 ballot

United Press International

**O**pponents of same-sex marriage have qualified a "Definition of Marriage" initiative for California's March 7, 2000 primary election ballot.

Secretary of State Bill Jones said he certified the measure by Republican state Senator Pete Knight of Palmdale Tuesday, November 17, after verifying Knight had more than enough valid registered voter signatures out of the 677,000 submitted on petitions.

If approved by voters, the measure would clarify that only male-female marriage is valid or recognized in California.

The proposed addition to the Family Code is a response to concerns that California might be required by the U.S. Constitution to recognize same-sex marriages contracted in other states - unless it expressly denies recognition.

However, referenda against same-sex marriage were passed by 2-1 ratios in Hawaii and Alaska in the November general election,



State Senator Pete Knight

making it less likely that same-sex might marry in other states, then return to California to demand marriage benefits.

Knight's initiative is the fifth measure to reach the 2000 election ballot.

The others include an initiative by Governor Pete Wilson that proposes stiffer sentences on violent juvenile offenders, and three propositions placed on the ballot by the Legislature that address the death penalty, lottery money and peace officers. ▼

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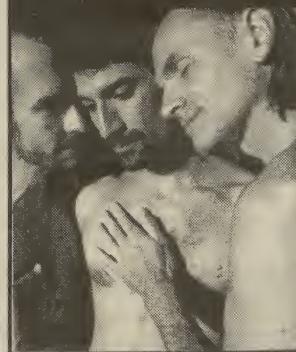
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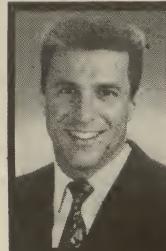
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## Kids aren't safe from kid porn laws

### United Press International

Two 14-year-old boys face charges in separate child-pornography cases in Lake County, Illinois.

A 14-year-old Mount Prospect boy is accused of collecting lewd images of other children on his computer, and a 14-year-old Zion boy is accused of videotaping two teenagers having sex and then circulating copies

among friends.

Prosecutors say it may be the first time Illinois's child-pornography law has been used to prosecute someone so young.

Domeena Renshaw, a psychology professor at Loyola University Medical Center, told the *Chicago Tribune*, "It's unusual because [they] got caught. We don't know how many do it. I think they're all curious."

Renshaw says similar cases are likely to proliferate with more

children gaining access to the Internet.

The Mount Prospect boy downloaded as many as 5,000 lewd photographs of adults, teenagers, and young children.

The pictures were discovered by repair technicians at a computer store.

In the Zion case, police say two teenagers were filmed by the third teenager. The parents of the teen called police when the tape was discovered. ▼

## Texas bluenose strikes again

### United Press International

Making out will become a crime in Texas if state Representative John Longoria of San Antonio has his way. Longoria says he will introduce a bill in the coming session that

would make it a misdemeanor for under-age teenagers to engage in sexual activity.

He says his goal is to cut down on teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and to give parents "some kind of control" over undesirable activities.

Longoria, who unsuccessfully

sponsored similar legislation in the last session, denied that he was trying to turn police into "a bunch of perverts." He also said he doesn't want police taking time from enforcing more serious laws to look "for kids who are having sex in a car or wherever they would be." ▼

## Van Gorder

◀ page 1

title, the coordinator does not manage any of DPH's programs serving the LGBT community. Instead, he said that he engages in special projects to improve the well-being of the community, advocates for services within DPH, conducts trainings, and provides information and referral to health services.

Van Gorder acknowledged that this will be the first time since he assumed his job four years ago that he and the public he is to serve will meet directly. "This is the first public meeting I've had," Van Gorder told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "In the past, I've had meetings with department folks." Van Gorder said he welcomes community input to help establish priorities for his work, and to gauge satisfaction with DPH's services.

One activist who plans to attend the meeting is Michael Pe-

treli, a frequent critic of health officials and AIDS service organizations. Petrelis said he's glad Van Gorder is holding the meeting. "I would like to see some new folks there [at Van Gorder's meeting] to help Dana be more attentive to our health needs," he said.

Petrelis cites specific instances to illustrate his complaint that Van Gorder is not concerned enough about the community's health issues, especially AIDS. One story occurred when the President's Advisory Commission on HIV and AIDS visited San Francisco in 1996, and Petrelis was among a group of activists removed for being disruptive. Petrelis told the *B.A.R.* that as he was detained outside the meeting room, handcuffed, he saw Van Gorder (who had not been in the meeting) leaving the building.

"I had to wonder where our so-called 'gay health coordinator' was going," Petrelis said. "What could have been going on anywhere else in town that he thought

was more important than a meeting with the president's panel of experts on the epidemic?"

Van Gorder said he has worked on special projects, including assisting in the development of the LGBT Community Center Project, where he is a board member; development of programs to address the speed epidemic among gay and bisexual men; planning for increased health services for lesbians, and a summit to address lesbian health issues; research about the psychological issues of gay men and participation in the development of new HIV prevention strategies; and assistance in the start-up of Dimensions, a new health and mental health clinic serving LGBT youth. ▼

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. at 101 Grove Street, room 300. Van Gorder can be reached at (415) 554-2599 or via e-mail at [Dana\\_Van\\_Gorder@dph.sf.ca.us](mailto:Dana_Van_Gorder@dph.sf.ca.us).

## Queer Science

◀ page 11

worlds that we will find ourselves. What would such a world be like? Certainly not a physical world just like this one, because we did not survive in such a world. But it might be a world in which physical laws are sufficiently different to permit our continued existence. Or it might be a non-physical world like a computer program, in which our consciousness could exist without a body.

What will it feel like to live in a

computer program? Perhaps existence will have a dream-like, irrational quality. Or, perhaps, our consciousness will reconstruct a simulation of the physical world we knew, indistinguishable from it. Which brings us to the question first raised by the philosopher Descartes in the 17th century: how do we know that we're not living in a simulation right now?

Science has answered a lot of little questions, but the Big Questions like "Is the world real?" and "Is there life after death?" remain contentious. Until they have it figured out, feel free to construct

your own hereafter – but make it a gay-friendly one! ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well known for his research on the "gay brain." He is author or co-author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends*, *Queer Science* (all MIT Press), the novel *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books), and *The Earth in Turmoil* (W.H. Freeman, 1998). He may be reached at [SLeVay@aol.com](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com). For more Queer Science columns, visit [www.gay.net](http://www.gay.net).

# Gay rights backers press on in Maine

United Press International

Supporters of a statewide law supporting gay rights in Maine have decided on a two-prong approach.

They voted overwhelmingly Sunday, November 15 in favor of getting the Legislature to re-enact a law and at the same time to seek a referendum on the presidential election ballot in the year 2000. Bills seeking referendums must be submitted by the middle of December.

Some gay rights proponents had strongly argued against any referendum. They point out that

voters had rejected gay rights protection by a narrow 51 percent to 49 percent in a referendum in February, invalidating a law the Legislature had passed in 1997.

David Garrity of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance said, "We certainly don't believe a referendum should be held on people's civil rights."

But referendum advocates persuaded their critics to pursue a ballot measure, noting that only those most in favor of protection and those most strongly opposed to it had turned out to vote.

The group elected to carry on an educational campaign to win

over dissenters, particularly voters in the north country who mostly voted for repeal.

While a number of communities on the coast and in southern Maine have since passed human rights ordinances, advocates believe a statewide measure is imperative. Maine remains the only New England state without such protection.

There is also another important reason. Governor Angus King has long favored gay rights legislation, but has maintained he will sign such a bill only if voters have a chance to register their opinion in a referendum. ▼

## National news briefs

United Press International

### Lesbian cop sues San Jose for discrimination

A former police officer is suing the city of San Jose for discrimination, claiming she was fired because she is a lesbian. Six-year police veteran Dawn Goodman lost her job last summer, and filed the lawsuit Thursday, November 12 in Santa Clara County Superior Court. Those court documents say Goodman's supervisors harassed and kept an illegal personnel file on her after learning of her sexual orientation.

In the suit, Goodman alleges another officer asked if she became sexually aroused while

searching female suspects. She is seeking an undisclosed amount of damages.

### A music teacher is a music teacher

Administrators at a midwestern middle school have decided a man can teach as a woman. Roosevelt Middle School in Blaine, Minnesota has come under fire from the Minnesota Family Council for allowing Miss Alyssa Williams, a recently hired male music teacher, to dress as a female, but Principal Jerry Hansen says a 1993 law prohibits firing Williams for being transgender. Minnesota Family Council President Tom Prichard argues the students should not be "forced" to accept Williams's identity as appropriate. ▼

About 400 people turned out for a meeting on the matter Monday, November 9, where parents got information to help them and their children understand transgenderism.

Williams says this is her seventh year of teaching, and the bottom line is all she wants to do is teach and care about kids.

### AIDS drug prices too high?

Chesterton, Indiana police are looking for a man suspected of robbing drugs from a pharmacy. Police say the suspect wore a long, blonde curly wig and a face mask when he held up the pharmacy. The suspect showed several written requests for specific drugs and said he was stealing them for a brother who has AIDS. ▼

### Rock for Decrim

◀ page 4

drug treatment services.

To date, the task force's recommendations have not been implemented. In March 1998, U.S. Pros launched a petition drive calling on the city to shift police priorities from the arrest and prosecution of prostitutes to the enforcement of laws against rape and other violent crimes; to redirect money now spent on enforcing prostitution laws toward services and resources for the community; to support and protect immigrant and refugee sex workers; to recognize the legal, civil, and employment rights of sex workers; and to take into account the contributions that sex workers make to the city's economy. According to Rachel

West of U.S. Pros, the group is circulating the petition throughout the community – to neighborhood groups, immigrants rights organizations, religious groups, and prisoners – and has received "a lot of support."

### Rescued ... and busted

Saturday's event comes amidst an ongoing crackdown against the city's sex industry. Beginning earlier this year with street sweeps of prostitution strolls in the Tenderloin, Polk, and Mission districts, the intensified police activity is now focused on massage parlors and private escorts.

According to Carol Leigh of the prostitutes' rights group COYOTE (Call Off Your Old, Tired Ethics), prostitution enforcement "costs a fortune and the police wind up using questionably legal, and even illegal, means to bust them. The

industry is tenacious enough to find ways to get around the police, but each time they are busted in the name of rescuing them, it means the workers become more marginalized, the working conditions become more stressful, and the prostitutes suffer."

Prostitutes' rights advocates estimate that the city spends \$7-10 million per year enforcing anti-prostitution laws, money they believe would be better spent providing improved health and social services for women and men in the sex industry. ▼

"Rock for Decrim" takes place starting at 8 p.m. at Pier 5 Embarcadero. Suggested donation \$10-25. For more information or to endorse the U.S. Pros petition, call (415) 626-4114.

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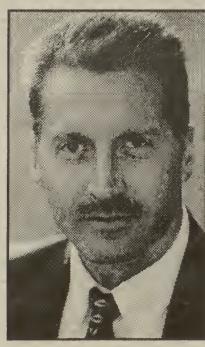
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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



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# First gay award for Latin America established in Mexico

Stevenson Press

A openly gay Mexican businessman has established the first award to honor activists fighting for gay and lesbian rights in Latin America.

The Gay Merit Award was established by Arturo Coste to recognize those individuals whose labor in the defense of gay rights has advanced gay culture and social acceptance of gays and lesbians. It carries with it a \$20,000 prize.

"The time has come to recognize openly those in Latin America working to define, defend, and expand the civil rights of the homosexual community," Coste said.

The first Gay Merit Award ceremony was held November 3 at the Jose Luis Cuevas Museum in Mexico City. Tito Vasconcelos, an actor and gay activist in Mexico City, was master of ceremonies. Luis Gauthier, regional representative of the International Lesbian and Gay Association for Latin America, presented the award.

Several members of the judging committee were present at the awards ceremony, including Patria Jimenez, the openly lesbian congresswoman in the Mexican Congress; journalist Alejandro Brito; Mexico City Deputy David Sanchez Camacho; Dr. Jorge Saavedra, a consultant to

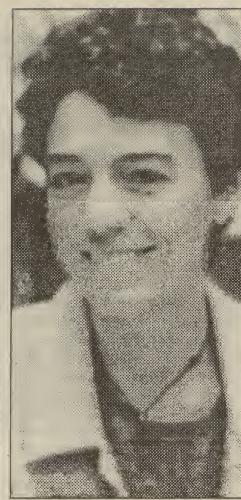
ONUSIDA, the United Nations AIDS program in Mexico; and Rodolfo Millan, counsel for the Comision Ciudadana Contra los Crímenes de Odio por Homofobia — the Citizens' Committee Against Homophobic Hate Crimes.

The recipient of the first Gay Merit Award was Joaquin Hurtado, author of the book *Guerreros y Otros Marimales* ("Warriors and Other Marginalized People") and the editor of *SER POSITIVO* ("Being Positive"). Hurtado is an active member of the gay community in Monterrey in the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and is

the founder of the *Acción Colectiva por la Defensa de las Minorías Sexuales, A.C. (ACODEMIS)* — Collective Action for the Defense of Sexual Minorities — a non-profit organization raising political consciousness and advancing civil rights for gays and lesbians in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and Central America. He has represented the AIDS community of Mexico and Central America at the International Conferences on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Amsterdam (1992), Berlin (1993), Vancouver (1996), Lima (1997), and Geneva (1998). "It is only now that as a com-

munity gays and lesbians are finding their voice — in society, in politics and in culture," Hurtado said. "We are embarking on a public presence, both as Spanish-speakers and homosexuals, not only in Latin America, but throughout the entire hemisphere." ▼

For further information, contact Arturo Coste, President, Azul Editores, S.A. de C.V., Paseo de la Reforma #369, Torre B-301, Col. Cuauhtémoc, 06500, Mexico City. Tel.: 011-52-(5)-525-1825



Patria Jimenez

# Young SF ambassadors going to Hong Kong for World AIDS Day

by Shan Schwartz

Six San Francisco teenagers will travel to Hong Kong to share their AIDS outreach experiences and exhibit pieces of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in a trip coinciding with the upcoming World AIDS Day

on December 1.

The week-long trip is sponsored by the Names Project, Ritz Carlton Hotels, and Cathay Pacific Airlines, which begins nonstop service from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) to Hong Kong on December 1.

Tom DeCaigny, co-coordinator for the Names Project nation-

al school quilt program, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the trip's mission is to foster an international dialogue about youth prevention of HIV and AIDS.

DeCaigny said the San Francisco delegation will participate with Hong Kong teenagers in a day of workshops and round-table discussions about HIV prevention efforts that work in their communities. They also will take part in World AIDS Day events coordinated by the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation.

The San Francisco group will also take along twenty 12-by-12-foot blocks of the American AIDS Memorial quilt, which will be on public display at various times during the trip.

The six students were picked from more than 50 qualified candidates through a selection process by the Names Project.

"They were asked to write an essay detailing their past HIV/AIDS education experiences," DeCaigny said, "and also to write about what they'd like to learn from students in Hong Kong and how they can take that knowledge and form it into an action plan back here in San Francisco."

The six San Francisco students traveling to Hong Kong are:

• Christopher Ridge Baker, a senior at University High School, who has volunteered with Project Open Hand and the Names Project and created a quilt panel for a neighbor who died of AIDS;

• Sylvia Hitiyo Ho, a junior at Lowell High School, who has volunteered at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation;

• Alexis Shoshannah Levine-Ward, a freshman at Leadership High School, who has been an AIDS volunteer since age 7 through hospice, Project Open Hand, and most recently establishing an AIDS awareness day and fundraiser at her school;

• Mark Kocivar-Norbury, a senior at Lowell, who has volunteered since seventh grade with the Names Project;

• Cornelius Quinn, a senior at Lowell, who has worked as a peer educator and counselor on San Francisco streets and in teen workshops; and

• Nicole Marie Williams, a se-

nior at Washington High School, who has been a peer resources counselor at her high school.

A San Francisco teacher was also chosen to accompany the group. Crystal Janice Jang, a health liaison and coordinator of student support activities at Dr. Martin Luther King Middle School, was selected on the basis of her AIDS service.

DeCaigny and his co-coordinator, Natalia Menezes, will also travel with the group.

## Return trip planned

In exchange for this trip, a delegation of Hong Kong student and teenage representatives will travel to San Francisco in February for the Names Project's annual conference of national chapters and international affiliates. That event will take place February 5-7 at Masonic Hall in San Francisco.

"It's a good match," DeCaigny said, "because we can take students who have been involved in our program and other programs in San Francisco, and have an exchange experience with students in Hong Kong who have worked on similar programs abroad."

DeCaigny said that through this trip, the Names Project is putting emphasis on how youth can be empowered to become peer educators.

"We're really encouraging them to take an active role to educate those in Hong Kong and also gain new knowledge there to bring back and enlighten the work they're already doing in San Francisco," DeCaigny said.

The trip will begin with a ceremonial folding of a portion of the quilt at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, at gate 64 of SFO, followed at 8:30 p.m. by inaugural festivities for Cathay Pacific's new Hong Kong service.

Ian Callendar, Cathay Pacific's vice president for the Americas, said the airline was delighted to have "such an impressive group of teens" on its inaugural flight.

"The new bridge we've created between San Francisco and Hong Kong opens exciting opportunities for an international dialogue on such important global issues as youth and HIV or AIDS," Callendar said. ▼

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# First retreat for GLBT Muslims creates new international organization

by Vicki Kolakowski

**T**hirty gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Muslims from 13 countries met at the first International Retreat for GLBT Muslims, which was held in Boston, Massachusetts, from October 9 through 12. The retreat participants established an international organization to address the concerns of GLBT Muslims around the world.

The new organization was

named after the first chapter of the Quran, "Al-Fatiha" (The Opening), which was also the theme of the retreat. Al-Fatiha plans to work with other organizations to address the social and political issues facing GLBT Muslims around the world.

"Homosexuality is so highly stigmatized in Muslim communities, that many gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and those questioning their sexuality end up internalizing the shame and disgust which surrounds them in their

families and communities," said Faisal Alam, retreat coordinator and founder of Al-Fatiha.

"They are often unable to come to terms with their own sexuality, fearing ostracization and even physical punishment," Alam added, noting that in most Islamic countries, homosexuality and transgendered behavior are crimes punishable by imprisonment, flogging, or even death.

Based in the United States, Al-Fatiha will establish chapters across the U.S. and abroad to sup-

port GLBT and questioning Muslims on a local level. The organization will also work with human rights organizations to advocate against abuses of GLBT persons in Islamic countries.

Alam also sees Al-Fatiha serving another role, that of working for a greater understanding between the Muslim community and non-Muslim people. "In a time when anti-Muslim sentiment is on the rise and there is much stereotyping of Muslims in the West, it is essential that we as GLBT Muslims be the voice of tolerance and justice," Alam told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "not only in our GLBT communities, but also in our mainstream Muslim communities as well."

The retreat served as a forum for the discussion of issues important to GLBT Muslims. Workshops and sessions addressed such topics as faith and sexuality, the oppression of GLBT persons in the Islamic world, GLBT identity in Islam, and the historical perspectives of GLBT behavior in Islamic societies. Additionally, participants examined the opinions of Muhammad on sexual minorities in his time, as well as the different interpretations of Quranic verses which appear to address homosexual acts.

Alam sees the retreat as an important first step in organizing

the GLBT Muslim community. "The retreat has given us the opportunity to come together as a community in a way that was never possible before," he said.

"But," he added, "the GLBT Muslim movement has only just begun. Much of the prejudice and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in Islamic societies is culture-based and does not stem from Islam as a religion. We want to celebrate our identity as GLBT people who are also believing Muslims."

"The noble and fundamental principles of respect, human dignity, tolerance, understanding, and justice, in Islam have been ignored when dealing with the issue of homosexuality and gender identity," Alam argued. "We hope to change all that – God willing."

**The second International Retreat for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Muslims is tentatively scheduled to take place in June, 2000 in Cape Town, South Africa. A meeting for GLBT Muslims in the United States is tentatively planned for New York City in April, 1999. For more information on Al-Fatiha, contact Faisal Alam at (617) 522-9232 or e-mail at [gaymuslims@yahoo.com](mailto:gaymuslims@yahoo.com)**

# Catholic Charities offers 'Safe Schools Project' to queer youth

by Mark Norby

**C**atholic Charities of the East Bay is targeting gay, lesbian, and questioning youth through a new program called the "Safe Schools Project." The project began last spring but has experienced enormous growth and expansion this fall, according to project directors. The project will be implemented in all Contra Costa County high schools.

The central theme of the project asks "Youth Are Talking ... Are We Listening?" and addresses the issues of sexual orientation and diversity. The project strives to create a safe space for young people to cope with the questions surrounding their sexuality.

Funded by the United Way of Contra Costa County, the Safe Schools Project will assist educators in building interactive workshops and one-on-one consultations between faculty and youth. "These services," says spokesman Mitchell Friedman, "are designed to increase awareness of the needs of gay and lesbian youth and their families."

Combating homophobia and

protecting youth from harassment and discrimination are the primary goals of the project. "Above all," explained Friedman, "the project endeavors to create a safe, supportive educational environment that respects the value of the human person."

In addition, Catholic Charities of the East Bay is working with the Center for Human Development in Pleasant Hill to promote an even wider expansion of the project. "We are hopeful," said Julie Lienert of Catholic Charities, "that growth of the project will continue and eventually include all schools in the Bay Area."

"As an in-service program," she continued, "we are the largest provider of human services in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. [Our] staff works with volunteers to administer programs in counseling, employment, training and education."

Catholic Charities also provides community and social ministry, housing and emergency services. Working in partnership with local parishes, Catholic Charities hopes to broaden its current network with community-based agencies in order that the

"Safe Schools Project" will serve as a model for the nation. ▼

**For more information please call Julie Lienert of Catholic Charities of the East Bay at (510) 768-3107.**

## Georgia Baptists reaffirm bigotry, 'tongues'

United Press International

**G**eorgia Baptists have voted to exclude churches that condone homosexuality, but a resolution to exclude churches that practice charismatic worship fell just short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage. Messengers representing the 1.2-million member state convention approved, with a show of hands, exclusion of any church "which knowingly takes, or has taken, any action to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

Not all of those attending approved of the resolution. The Reverend Bill Self of John's Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta implored his fellow Baptists to consider the issue carefully. "To speak on this very issue is perilous," he said. "I want to ask one simple question. This year, the homosexuals. Who's next, churches that receive African-Americans? Churches that allow women in the ministry?"

The assembly failed to approve the exclusion of churches "which encourage members to speak in tongues." The Reverend Mike Everson of the Second Baptist Church in Warner Robins argued that churches where members bark like dogs and roar like lions shouldn't call themselves Baptists, but the vote to allow tongues fell just short of the necessary two-thirds required. ▼

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# Cosmetic treatment options for facial wasting

by **Don Howard, ACT UP/ Golden Gate writers pool**

Many people with HIV are experiencing changes in their physical appearance due to new anti-viral combination therapies. Facial wasting is one of the most noticeable of these body shape changes which, according to some recent studies, affect to some degree nearly three-quarters of all people on combination therapy. Despite improving health, body shape changes can make patients appear sicker than before treatment began. Some people with HIV are considering abandoning their treatment due to changes in their appearance.

In the interview below, Dr. Richard Glogau, a dermatologist at the University of California, San Francisco, (UCSF) discusses cosmetic treatment options for patients with facial wasting. Glogau has worked with HIV patients with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) since the start of the epidemic, and is part of the UCSF team seeking to identify HPV-8 as the causative agent of KS.

Q. How many patients have you seen with facial wasting? What's the cause?

A. Over the last two years, I have seen at least two dozen patients with facial wasting. I never saw it to this extent prior to the advent of protease inhibitors except in patients who had severe, end-stage AIDS wasting. I don't know whether it is secondary to the drugs or whether people simply live long enough with the disease to develop the wasting now.



What are the current cosmetic options for treatment of facial wasting?

The cosmetic options depend on the degree of wasting present. Milder cases can be successfully treated with Zyderm collagen and Dermalogin, which can be injected through a 30 gauge needle. Other injectable options, such as Hyaluronic acid and Restylane gel, are available in Europe but not yet in the U.S. (Injectable treatments need to be periodically repeated to maintain the effect.)

Implants can be used for more severe cases. AlloDerm is a cadaver acellular collagen implant that can be placed in the subcutaneous space left behind. Other implants, such as SoftForm and GoreTex, are also available.

What are the costs? Will insurance pay?

At the cheapest, Zyderm would run about \$400 a treatment and needs to be repeated every three months. SoftForm implants would run in the \$3,000-and-up range and might need additional implants as the wasting progressed. So far, insurance has not covered any of these treatments that I am aware of.

What's the recovery time?

The injectables are walk-in, walk-out. The GoreTex and SoftForm have four- to seven-day recovery times.

Are new options in the pipeline?

Restylane, Hyaluronic acid, and other injectables are a year or two away from being marketed. We are waiting for the technical production of newer (larger) sizes of SoftForm, which may be available in clinical trials as early as February of next year.

What do you recommend to your patients?

It is very difficult to generalize since each case must be evaluated for the location and degree of volume loss. I think the SoftForm may offer a permanent if removable fix and simply needs to be tailored to the individual needs of the HIV patients. The sizes we currently have are essentially too small to be economically practical. Larger pieces will permit greater correction with fewer procedures. I would be happy to speak with any patients with facial wasting. Hopefully we will be in a position to offer them something [better] in the first quarter of next year.

Some people think that cosmetic treatment for facial wasting is just a quick-fix for the vain. What do you think?

Having seen my friends and associates succumb over the years to uncontrolled HIV disease, and having seen the undetectable viral loads in my patients with some of the new anti-viral agents, I would prefer that people stick with their therapies and see if we can come up with something that would help them with their wasting. It seems a relatively minor price to pay for prolonged life. ▼

## 'Fossil' HIV found hiding in semen

by **Mara Bovsun, UPI**

Doctors reported Friday, November 13 they have found a silent form of HIV hiding in semen that remains infectious in men whose aggressive drug treatment has reduced levels of the virus to undetectable levels.

Investigators at Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson University said they found the hidden HIV, which they call a provirus, in the semen of four out of seven men who had responded well to aggressive drug treatment for AIDS. The men had no detectable free virus circulating in their blood or semen.

Dr. Roger J. Pomerantz, who led the research, likened provirus to a "fossil virus," and said it tucks its genetic material into the DNA of certain cells, where it can hide in for years in a dormant state.

Pomerantz said the provirus showed no sign of the genetic changes that occur to the virus after years of anti-AIDS therapy.

But his research, presented in Denver at the annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, has shown that given the right conditions, the virus can become active again. In his experiment, Pomerantz found that these proviruses will start to grow again in the laboratory when cultured

with blood cells from people who were not infected.

Pomerantz says the proviruses can reseed the patient once drug therapy is stopped. Also, the dormant viruses can be passed on to another person, where they can cause a new infection.

This means that even if drug treatment seems to be working, HIV-positive men have to practice safe sex, Pomerantz said.

These men may not be as contagious as those with detectable virus, but they still pose a risk, he warned.

Scientists are trying to develop strategies for wiping out these last traces of virus. Pomerantz said it may take drugs to kill off the cells where HIV finds sanctuary, or treatments that activate the cells and the virus so the antivirals can do their job.

Pomerantz says he believes these lingering viruses will also be found in HIV-infected women who undergo HAART, or highly active anti-retroviral therapy – usually a three-drug regimen involving protease inhibitors.

A related study at the Denver meeting found that in women, HAART was successful in sharply reducing the amount of virus in the genitalia, bringing it down to undetectable levels in more than half of the study participants.

Dr. Susan Cu-Uvin, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, said the study suggests that this kind of therapy may reduce the chances that a woman will transmit the virus during heterosexual sex, or to her baby during childbirth.

In her study of 176 women, about a third were getting the potent drug cocktails, a third were getting milder therapies, and another third were taking no drug at all.

About 89 percent of the women on HAART had undetectable levels of virus in the genital tract, compared to 74 percent on less intense treatments and 67 percent of women taking no anti-AIDS drugs at all.

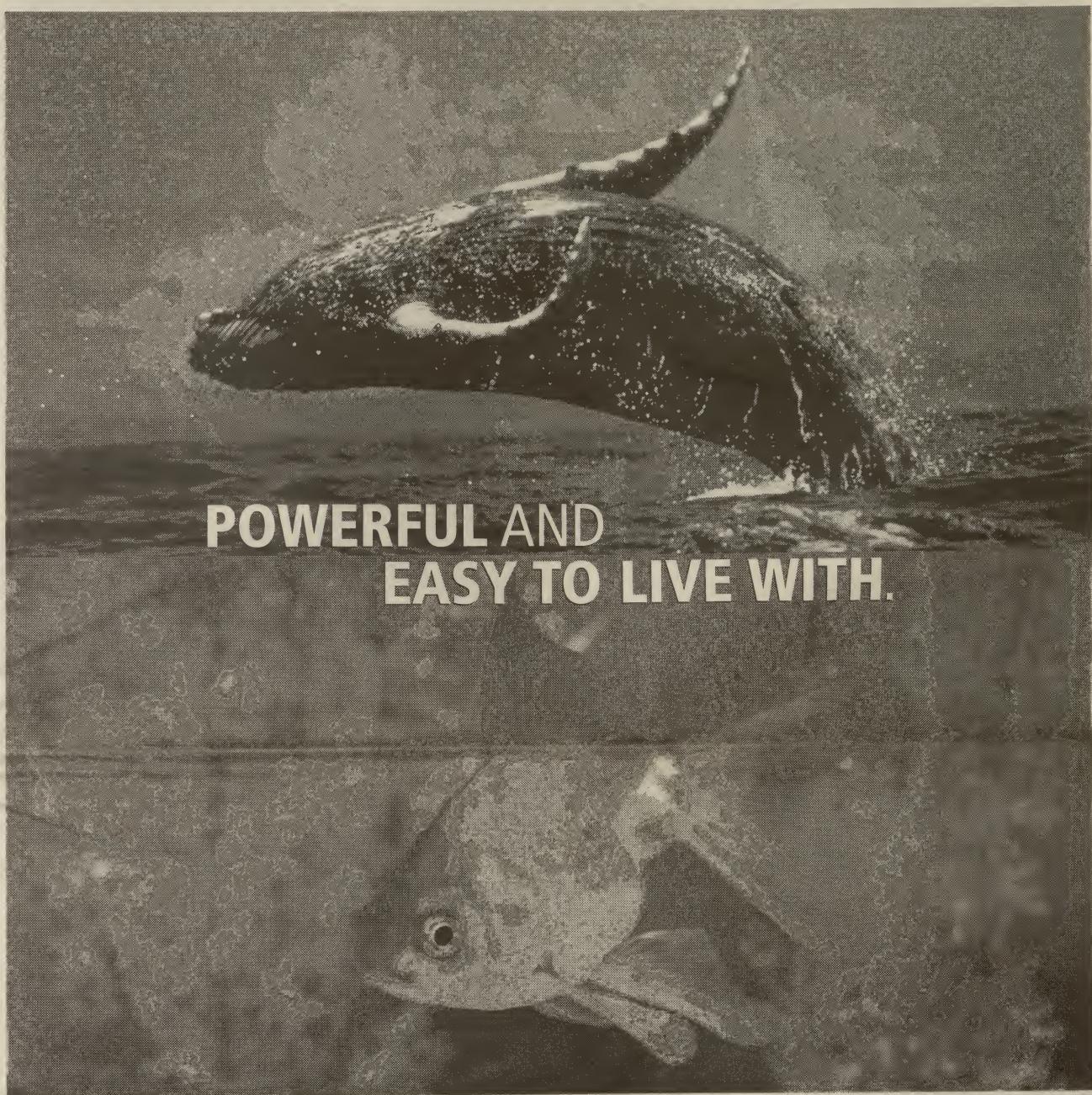
"We would encourage every woman to go on HAART," she said, but added, "however, many women do not want to take them because the regimens are difficult, involving dozens of pills a day, and they can cause serious side effects."

Like Pomerantz, Cu-Uvin warned that women should continue to practice safe sex even if the drugs seem to have wiped out the virus. It may be undetectable, she says, but it doesn't mean it's not there.

She says, "It's not a cure." ▼

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#### WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

**VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.**

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

#### DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

#### WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

**Allergies:** If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

**If you are pregnant:** The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**If you are breast-feeding:** You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

**Children:** VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

**If you have liver disease:** VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

**Other medical problems:** Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

#### CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

#### Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Catergot®, and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

#### Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

#### A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

**Nucleoside analogues:** No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:** Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

#### Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.

- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

#### Other protease inhibitors:

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

#### WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthma, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

#### HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

**Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor.** Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

#### Dosing in adult (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

#### Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

#### Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb		
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to < 18.5	4	1
8.5 to < 10.5	18.5 to < 23	5	1 1/4
10.5 to < 12	23 to < 26.5	6	1 1/2
12 to < 14	26.5 to < 31	7	1 3/4
14 to < 16	31 to < 35	8	2
16 to < 18	35 to < 39.5	9	2 1/4
18 to < 23	39.5 to < 50.5	10	2 1/2
≥ 23	≥ 50.5	15	3 3/4
			3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

\* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

#### How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or orange sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

#### HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

The following are registered trademarks of their respective manufacturers: Retrovir, Epivir/Glaxo Wellcome Oncology/HIV; Zerit, Videx/Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology; Invirase, Versed/Roche Laboratories Inc; Seldane, Rifadin, Rifaxam, Rifater/Hoechst Marion Roussel; Hismanal, Propulsid/Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc; Halcion, Mycobutin/Pharmacia & Upjohn Co; Rimactane, Tegretol/Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals; Viramune/Roxane Laboratories, Inc; Dilantin/Parke-Davis; Crixivan/Merck & Co, Inc; Imodium-A-D/McNeil Consumer Products Co; Cordarone/Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories; Quinaglute/Berlex Laboratories; Cardioquin/The Purdue Frederick Co; Quinidex/A.H. Robins Co, Inc; Cafergot/Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. Norvir is a trademark of Abbott Laboratories.

Issued 11/19/97

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## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**Michael Coker**  
aka Thomas Johnson  
June 19, 1957 — November 5, 1998



Michael's final wish was recently granted. He left us surrounded by close friends and in the arms of his longtime partner, Max Gertz.

Michael was a San Francisco resident for many years, and relocated to Monterey in 1994. Many will remember him as the "feisty" waiter at the Castro Gardens Restaurant.

Anyone who was honored to have Michael as a friend knows the true meaning of friendship. Anyone who crossed him soon wished they hadn't.

Godspeed Michael. May the shopping in heaven bring you as much joy as it did on earth. You will be greatly missed, but more importantly, never forgotten.

**Theron Pritchett**  
August 20, 1964 — November 12, 1998



Theron Charles Pritchett peacefully passed at home with his loved ones by his side. He was a music teacher at Gunn High School in Palo Alto, California.

Mr. Pritchett was an exceptional saxophonist and teacher. It was easy to love Theron because of his handsome smile, candidness, kindness, and refreshing humor. He loved traveling, jazz, opera, and the music of Nancy Wilson. He especially loved his family, which includes life-long friends. He also enjoyed his friends at Badlands.

Theron passed after an aggressive battle against cancer. He is survived by his parents, grandparents, sister, life-long friends, and partner of 14 years. Theron and Don were immensely proud of their loving and committed relationship.

ship and of their family.

Donations to the Theron Pritchett Memorial Scholarship Fund for the study of music can be made to Bank of America, 555 Broadway, Millbrae, CA 94030.

**Frederick "Ted" Foster**

Ted Foster passed quietly away at home on November 2, 1998 after a long illness. A diverse devotee to the arts, he began singing in the chorus of Houston Grand Opera at age 16 and performed professionally for the next 25 years.



Ted is survived by his partner of 13 years, Jack Byers, and by his loved mother, Anne Richter, and two sisters in Houston, Katie Coleman and Susie Back, and two nieces and a nephew. He leaves many fantastic friends and will be sorely missed by all.

At his request, no services will be held.

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# Panretin approved to treat KS

by Bob Roehr

People with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) will soon have a topical drug – Panretin – to help treat skin lesions associated with the disease. The Oncology Drugs Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) voted 8 to 1 to recommend approval of the product at a meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland, on Monday, November 16. Final approval will likely come in a few months and Panretin should become available early next year.

The active ingredient in Panretin is retinoic acid, which is found in Vitamin A. The gel is applied to skin lesions two to four times a day. Neither its developer Ligand Pharmaceuticals, nor the FDA understands its mechanism of action.

Clinical trials showed a shrinking in the size, height, and color of skin lesions, and a reduction in pain in up to a third of the patients. The differences depended upon the standards used and who was making the evaluation.

About three-quarters of pa-

tients experienced some burning or redness from the product, but that was relatively mild and few people dropped out of the trial. The symptoms were reduced with fewer applications and went away completely a week or so after stopping use. It is not absorbed into the body, and therefore has no effect on internal KS.

Ligand called Panretin "a new direction in therapy" as the first topical agent for treating skin lesions. It has the advantage of being self-administered so the patient can use it on new lesions as they begin to appear, and adjust patterns of use if there is an allergic reaction.

FDA evaluator Dr. Robert M. White, Jr., expressed little concern over the safety of the product. He demonstrated the subjectivity of using photographs to evaluate changes in lesions, and concluded that Panretin was perhaps less effective than the sponsor claimed.

Ligand flew in four PWAs who participated in the trials and were pleased with their results. All testified to the shrinking and even disappearance of their disfiguring lesions. "My life is starting to feel normal again," said

Thomas J. Kennedy of Buffalo, New York.

**Spoilers from TAG**

The lone opposition to Panretin came in a letter for the record from the Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York. It questioned some of the operational procedures and outcomes of the clinical trials. And it concluded, "Temporarily replacing a disfiguring lesion with a disfiguring rash/burn/scar still filled with KS spindle cells does not represent an effective treatment for cutaneous KS."

The advisory panel grappled with the question of how much of the improvement in lesions and durability of effect might be attributed to Panretin and how much to changes in underlying conditions such as reduced viral load and improved CD4 counts. The data provided no clear answers.

No one considers Panretin a blockbuster answer for treating KS. But Dr. Donald Abrams, an oncologist at San Francisco General Hospital, seemed to sum up the committee's feelings when he said; "It's safe, so why not let people try it?" ▶

## DPH has new HIV test, wants you to help determine its use

by Sam Curlee

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is looking for community members to serve on its Community Advisory Board (CAB) as the department increasingly uses a new supplemental HIV test that can distinguish recent from long-standing HIV infection.

The new "detuned ELISA" test is offered at anonymous and confidential testing sites, and can identify those who have seroconverted in the last six months. But because the test is part of a research study, detuned ELISA requires client consent and is only conducted on HIV-positive blood specimens.

Dr. Willie McFarland, director of the HIV seroprevalence unit at DPH, sees the test as a prevention tool and an opportunity for

those infected to seek early treatment. Also, partners of the recently infected who were placed at recent risk could seek post-exposure prevention, or PEP, therapy.

Since the test can identify recent infection, one of its more important aspects is the ability to interrupt the chain of HIV transmission through early partner notification.

According to McFarland, the detuned ELISA CAB is being assembled as a way to advise the DPH about administering the test and assisting HIV-infected persons with voluntary partner counseling and referral services.

McFarland went on to say that the rate of HIV-infection has remained at a steady state over the last few years, comprising a changing group of individuals. Research from the detuned ELISA hopes to target that changing group of individuals and break up the chain of infection by finding

out how recently the seroconversion occurred.

Dr. Sandy Schwarcz, director of the AIDS surveillance unit, also sees the detuned ELISA as a prevention tool. "Detuned ELISA will tell us where transmission is occurring now," she said. "With this information, we are in a much better position to direct programs to populations at greatest risk."

But will the detuned ELISA actually help to reduce the number of people becoming infected? The answer to that is not clear.

So far DPH has three members for the detuned ELISA CAB, and is looking for more. ▶

Anyone interested in receiving a CAB information packet or a presentation in-service conducted in their organization or community can call Viva Delgado at (415) 554-9096.

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# Oarganized

by Jim Provenzano

For the first time in Gay Games history, Amsterdam officials included rowing in the array of sports, and what a welcome addition it was, worthy of a Merchant-Ivory film.

The weather was near-perfect, and the lengthy man-made lake at Bosbaan Park (which was also the setting for Triathlon competitions, and the practice field of the Dutch national rowing team) served the international array of competing teams.

The Bay Blades competed in a variety of events, from eight-person sculls to single events in both men's and women's categories. The eight-man A-level men's event won the Blades a bronze. In men's D single sculls, Al Chase took first place, and the women B/C coxed four oars took fourth. The men's A coxed four oars, the Blades also came in third.

Not resting on their laurels, the Bay Blades continue their success in California regattas. At the recent Foster City Lagoon Regatta,

their mixed eight crew came in first place. They're also competing in the Stanford Regatta this Sunday.

Team President Britt Tennell called Gay Games V an "extraordinarily exhilarating event," and was quite overwhelmed at one of their events to finally have made it to the Games. "It's the culmination of what we've been doing for over a year."

The Blades raced with teams from the Netherlands, Germany, and U.S. cities like Austin, and hit it off well with the British team. "The rowers from other countries put in a lot of effort," said Tennell, one of many who daily traveled almost an hour each day in each direction to go from practices and competition to the city.

And yes, several Blades won medals, but team rep Vern Nuanez said he "could care less whether or not there are medals given. I think giving medals actually brings out really bad things in people." He enjoyed meeting people and just being there. "However, it is a competitive event and most people want something to

wave around to prove they won." This diverse crew of people accomplished a goal of personal bests, and team bests, including having a good time. Among the competitors were crew teams familiar to rower Ayala, but "meeting new people was fantastic. Everyone there was so friendly."

Ayala noted that "the competition was pretty good. There were some really competent teams. What made it for me is that the team that should have won did. The folks who were real hard workers were rewarded."

## Nationalistic patriarchal competition, yet fun

Since hauling huge fiberglass boats and wooden oars overseas would have been nigh impossible, the Amsterdam rowing club went out of its way to provide equipment for the visiting teams. "There were very few hitches," Ayala said, "for such a massive event."

Nuanez considers the folks in his sport lucky. "From the stories I heard about events like skating, the only response from the Dutch organizers should have been, 'Sorry, we fucked up.' A level of incompetence was pervasive."

As for rowing, last-minute changes, due to late-registering athletes, led to a bit of confusion. Rowers were also faced with varying age categories, something, according to Nuanez, they weren't informed of before arriving in Amsterdam.

Despite such problems, the actual preparation for the event was considered by the Blades to be ex-

cellent, considering the accomplishment of their organizers, who "basically went to the Dutch straight clubs saying, 'Can we borrow \$100,000 of your equipment and give it to people we don't even know?' That they did that shows a lot."

More important, straight and gay rowers came together, very much in the spirit of friendship, and that is always a victory.

"I didn't start getting into athletics until my mid-30s," said Nuanez. "For me, it's about learning what my body can do," and not the sometimes unfriendly competitive aspect he saw in some other sports. "The heterosexist patriarchal structure of medalizing put some people in a bad place, so they didn't have a good time."

The more competitive, and nationalistic aspects of Gay Games irked him as well. "People kept asking, 'What team? What country?' as if that were our identity. It's not like we're carrying a flag for anybody. I went for me."

To Ayala, "the Games was interesting for things that went on outside of athletics," noting that the atmosphere of the event was also sociable as well. "It seemed flirtatious was the real event."

And while the crew team has grown in the past year, they're always welcoming rookies, said

team captain Joe D'Armiento, "but be prepared to train."

Whether they win medals or not, the Blades inclusion in future Gay Games is uncertain. As of now, it's not included in either the core or exhibition sport lists for Gay Games VI. D'Armiento said that Sydney may not even have a regulation course.

Oh well, perhaps they can compete on the beach against those lifeguards with the perpetual Speedo wedgies. ▼

**The Bay Blades' next race is this Sunday in the Stanford Regatta at the San Mateo Marina Lagoon in Redwood Shores at the Parkside Aquatic Park on Seale Street.**

**Confused? Call Clare Abram at (650) 372-0895 or get a map at [http://members.tripod.com/~src\\_fall\\_regatta/](http://members.tripod.com/~src_fall_regatta/) If you're interested but inexperienced in rowing, Oakland's Lake Merritt Rowing Club offers beginning classes in sculling and sweep rowing. For more info on the team, call Vern Nuanez at (415) 558-8671, visit their website at <http://members.aol.com/goblades/> or e-mail team reps Dara Altobelli-Turch at [DaraAT@aol.com](mailto:DaraAT@aol.com) or Vern Nuanez at [vnuanez@hewm.com](mailto:vnuanez@hewm.com)**



## Sports Complex

### Picture this

Do you have a great jpeg of yourself or a friend competing or enjoying Gay Games V? Send it in to Team San Francisco for possible inclusion in a new book documenting Bay Area lesbian and gay jocks! Send your files/pictures to Thom Mullins at [sk8usa@best.com](mailto:sk8usa@best.com).

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You must have a CD4 count greater than 100.

You must have no active infections.

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For more information, please call  
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HIVCare is a non-profit, community-based clinical trial program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.



Muralists Mike Rousseau and Jenn Fox string up a canopy so painting can continue in the rain.

### New safer way opens behind Safeway for bikers

by Mark Norby

city's newest mural," said Leah Shahum, program director of the SFBC.

"The 6,000-square-foot Duboce Bikeway Mural," Shahum continued, "will be viewed daily by 49,000 streetcar riders, 2,000 pedestrians, and 1,000 bicyclists." To that effect the mural stands as a symbol of community cooperation and activism and a desire to implement sustainable modes of transportation.

The mural intends to convey a cinematic effect when in motion, "such as while biking by on the new Duboce Bikeway," mural coordinator Joel Pomerantz said.

The SFBC hopes that this car-free lane will be the inspiration for many more bike- and pedestrian-centered boulevards to grace the city.

The Duboce Bikeway was made possible through a quarter-million dollar federal grant secured by the DPT's bicycle program. The last brush strokes on the mural will take place just before the official unveiling, followed by a narrative tour of the intricate design and history behind the various segments of the mural itself. ▼

The new Duboce Bikeway opens this Saturday, November 21 at 2 p.m. as San Francisco's first car-free boulevard. The opening will be capped by the unveiling of a new mural painted by over 120 San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) volunteers under the direction of local artist Mona Caron.

The Duboce Bikeway is approximately two-blocks long and is the first of its kind in San Francisco, located directly behind the Market Street Safeway and franchise conglomeration. The bikeway has been unofficially open for two months, but Saturday's celebration will announce to the public the official arrival of the people's car-free bike zone.

The Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) will have to suspend their meter-maid efforts on the new bikeway as only bikes, pedestrians and Muni trains will be allowed within the zone.

Bicyclists, pedestrians, and streetcar riders also will be "treated to a dramatically improved view upon the unveiling of the

## Milk march

◀ page 1

tion for the permit "because of serious concerns regarding several changes which I now understand are being planned."

Romero says everything's fine and on track for the march, set to begin at 6:30 p.m. in front of Milk's old camera store, now the Skin Zone on Castro Street near 19th Street, and conclude behind the retrofitted City Hall on Polk Street.

Milk and Moscone were gunned down in City Hall by ex-supervisor Dan White on November 27, 1978.

"We [Milk Club] are doing it this year. It's proceeding as planned," Romero told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Romero said he doesn't understand what all the fuss is about, other than to say that apparently, White "wanted us to have certain people here."

And although Romero says the club is "inviting everybody" to the march, not everybody has been invited to speak — and that, along with the earlier than usual starting time, still has White seeing red.

### Muted speakers?

One of White's main criticisms with the march is that current queer officeholders, namely Supervisors Mark Leno and Leslie Katz, and Mayor Willie Brown, a strong supporter of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community, haven't been invited to speak at the event.

Leno told the B.A.R. that it's his understanding he should be receiving an invitation to speak at the event. Katz's office had not received an invitation to speak at press time. Supervisor and board president-elect Tom Ammiano has been asked to speak, Romero

said, and the mayor is not being asked to speak.

"It's not a chance for people to get on stage," he said.

"I have a list, not with me, of folks who worked on his [Harvey's] campaign," Romero told the B.A.R., adding those people are expected to share some words during the march. The march is a commemoration of Milk's successful campaign for supervisor, Romero added.

White disagrees, saying the march "is a direct reaction to the 1978 murder of a mayor, George Moscone, and a gay supervisor, Harvey Milk."

"It is also my belief that this is a community response. This means it is not a government-sponsored march and it is not a quasi-commercial event such as the gay parade," White stated in a letter to Brown, Leno, Katz, and Ammiano.

Romero said the club is trying to contact members of the Moscone family, though they have not taken part in past memorial events.

The mayor is planning an event to commemorate Milk and Moscone this Tuesday, November 24 at the Opera House. (See sidebar, this page.) Rebecca Prozan, the mayor's liaison to the LGBT community, told the B.A.R. the mayor would like to speak at the Milk Club's event. "I'm sure the mayor would love to have an invitation, and that's all I better say. He feels it's an important part of San Francisco's history."

Romero said that openly lesbian Assemblywoman Carole Migden and former Supervisor Harry Britt are still to be confirmed as speakers, and other speakers will include past Milk Club presidents besides Migden.

A spokesman for Migden said Tuesday, November 17 that she

has not received an invitation to speak, but may be out of town for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Romero said that the mayor "has never spoken at a Milk Club March." Prozan said Brown has appeared at every march commemorating the assassination of Milk since he became mayor with the exception of last year's event, because it was held on a holiday. "He only missed last year because he was with his family on Thanksgiving," she said.

### Too early?

White also said the 6:30 p.m. starting time will prevent the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus from performing, because it will be singing at the Macy's Union Square tree-lighting ceremony. However, Mitulski held out hope that logistics could be worked out. If the chorus was to perform at the end of the march, that would probably give members enough time to get from Union Square to City Hall, just one Muni stop away.

"I think everyone's focus should be on letting people know about the history and legacy of Milk and Moscone," Mitulski told the B.A.R., adding he hopes the chorus can perform at the end.

Jim Payne, executive director of the chorus, told the B.A.R. that the group "is 'hopin' on the first Muni" after the Union Square gig, and will perform at the end of the march at City Hall.

Children from the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy are expected to perform at the beginning of the march, and that was one of the reasons Romero gave for the earlier starting time. "Our concern is with safety and the children's chorus performing," said Romero.

White said that in the past, marches have usually started around 7 or 7:30 p.m. ▼

## Memorials mark Milk-Moscone murders

by Cynthia Laird

The 20th anniversary of the murders of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk is Friday, November 27, and in recognition, there are events taking place to commemorate the occasion. Moscone and Milk were shot at City Hall by ex-supervisor Dan White, who later committed suicide following his release from prison.

Milk was an openly gay Jewish man who helped organize the Castro into a socio-political mecca. In response to the horrific event 20 years ago, the community responded with a peaceful candlelight march and people gathered at Sha'ar Zahav, which was a new congregation at the time, to find comfort in community.

This year, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will host a special commemorative Shabbat service on Friday, November 20 (the anniversary of Milk's death, according to the Jewish calendar). Services will begin at 8:15 p.m. in Sha'ar Zahav's new synagogue, located at 290 Dolores Street at 16th Street. The services will include the traditional Shabbat liturgy, as well as time to remember Milk and the accomplishments of the gay liberation movement over the last 20 years. Elected officials, including Assemblywoman Carole Migden, Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Sue Bierman, Amos Brown, Leslie Katz, and Mark Leno, and friends of Milk have also been invited.

Following Shabbat services, there will be a Tikkun Leyl, or an all-night study session. Co-sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and the Harvey Milk Institute, the Tikkun Leyl will begin with a time for sharing personal memories of Milk, and move into a study of Jewish texts on liberation and the modern history of the gay freedom movement. Rabbi Jane Litman, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Professor Jonathan Katz, and author Suzanne Loebel will be among the teachers who will inspire the participants throughout the night. Everyone is welcome to come to all or part of the Tikkun Leyl. For more information, call Renée Bauer at the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav office, (415) 861-6932. Refreshments will be served all night.

To memorialize the anniversary of the assassinations, Mayor Willie Brown will host an event this Tuesday, November 24. Speakers include members of the Moscone family, state Senator John Burton, and former Supervisor Harry Britt. Students from the George R. Moscone Elementary School and the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, as well as St. Ignatius High School, have been invited to attend. The event is from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue. The public is welcome to attend. ▼

## Thanksgiving

◀ page 1

teers not just for Thanksgiving day when the meals are delivered, but more urgently in the preparation that begins several days ahead of the event."

In an effort to appreciate and motivate its veteran volunteers prior to the holiday season, this year's annual POH volunteer appreciation party was held at Entros Restaurant last Sunday, and "was really, really successful," said Swanson. "We hope to be equally successful delivering our dinners, but we really need help."

POH asks all interested volunteers to respond by calling the volunteer hotline at (415) 447-2404.

### Tessie, St. Francis, and friends

Tenderloin Tessie sponsors its annual "An American Thanksgiving: Dinner for Everyone" that takes place Thanksgiving day from 1 to 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. To volunteer or donate food or money call A.L. Allen at (415) 621-4129 or Empress Phyllis at (415) 863-5277.

St. Francis Lutheran Church will serve "several hundred dinners," according to organizer Thomas Ormsby, and is one of the few organizations that is already fully staffed with volunteers. Dinners will be served all afternoon. For more information call (415) 621-2635.

The Larkin Street Youth Center Volunteer and Training Department is asking those interested in volunteering for their Thanksgiving dinner to call

Rochelle Collins as soon as possible at (415) 673-0911 ext. 222. The event will serve more than 100 homeless and runaway youth at the First Presbyterian Church, and volunteers will be asked to help with preparation, serving, clean-up and gift giving.

Thanksgiving dinner will be served at the Center for AIDS Services for clients and their families on Thanksgiving day from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The center is located at 5720 Shattuck Avenue in Oakland. More information may be obtained by calling Robert Darton at (510) 655-3435.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) will hold dinner for around 1,800 of its clients at the Westin St. Francis, the fourth consecutive year that the hotel has donated its ballroom for the event. SFAF is one of the few organizations that has enjoyed a fully-staffed group of volunteers, and has also lined up many corporate donors such as Marriott and Safeway. The San Francisco flower company Taking the Fifth with Flowers is donating arrangements for the dinner. The foundation distributed tickets to AIDS service organizations throughout the city.

### Glide gives and seeks givers

Glide Memorial Church holds the largest of San Francisco dinners with an estimated 6,000 needy individuals expecting to attend. Glide needs more than 1,000 turkeys to feed its hungry population. By Monday, November 16 it had received only 200 turkeys.

"In addition to needing 800 more turkeys," the Reverend Cecil Williams told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "we also need canned goods, rolls, potatoes, and just about anything else that goes into

a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. I'm not sure," Williams continued, "but I think the situation in Central America has affected the amount of giving that is going into our own community. A lot of

aid has been sent to that region." Glide also needs an additional 200 volunteers, and hopes for an early response from those interested. People can call (415) 771-6300.

The church will hold Thanksgiving service beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 26, followed by holiday meals to be served all day at 330 Ellis Street. ▼



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## BAY AREA REPORTER

11/27/98  
NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 226779

The following person(s) are doing business as OffRamp Leathers, 97 Duboce Ave., SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by co-partners John O. Bernal 3rd, Paul T. Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on,10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/21/98. NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

E47

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 02167700

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Blue Nile Enterprises, 1252 24th Ave., SF., CA 94122. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on 10/27/98. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Joshua Hatter. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco county on 10/27/98. NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

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## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN

AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN

FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 098873

In the Matter of the Application of Jeffrey Stephen Bauer, For Change of Name. The application of Jeffrey Stephen Bauer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jeffrey Stephen Bauer has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jeffrey Stephen Marcusjohn. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 15th day of December 1998, at 9:00 o'clock AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. OCT. 29 NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

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## STATEMENT FILE NO. 226797

The following person(s) are doing business as OffRamp Leathers, 97 Duboce Ave., SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by co-partners John O. Bernal 3rd, Paul T. Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on,10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/06/98. NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

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## STATEMENT FILE NO. 226777

The following person(s) are doing business as OffRamp Leathers, 97 Duboce Ave., SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by co-partners John O. Bernal 3rd, Paul T. Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on,10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/06/98. NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

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## STATEMENT FILE NO. 226776

The following person(s) are doing business as OffRamp Leathers, 97 Duboce Ave., SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by co-partners John O. Bernal 3rd, Paul T. Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on,10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/10/98. NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

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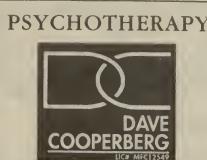
## STATEMENT FILE NO. 226775

The following person(s) are doing business as Hotel Galaxy or Galaxy Hotel 72 Ellis St. SF., CA 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Frank E. Lembi, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/10/98. NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

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**BAY AREA REPORTER**

## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 271208 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

Of Horst Hans Grahmann. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Horst Hans Grahmann. The petition for probate has been filed by William T. Brown in the Superior Court of California County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that William T. Brown be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action. The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on 12/7/98 at 9:00am Dept 13 Rm 204 at the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco 400 McAllister St. SF., CA 94102. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100, the time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate code section 1250. A request for special notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petition Mr. Paul H. Melbostad 100 Van Ness Avenue, 21st Floor San Francisco CA 94102 (415) 621-5600.

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**Sweet Lips goes psychedelic!**

The patriarch of Polk Street takes a trip down memory lane... into *Polly Esther's*.

page 53

**Helluva great guy**

Chanticleer's new director, Craig Hella Johnson.

page 48

**Moo or More?**

Why a drag queen won't be cowed, in *Calendare*.

page 50



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 28 • No. 47 • 19 November 1998

## Cultural makeovers

### 'Tranny Fest: Transgender & Transgenre Cinema'

by Gary Morris



Alley of the *Tranny Boys* stars Jade-Blue Eclips and Angel, with director Christopher Lee

Elizabeth Sheldon

**T**annies of every stripe — drag queens and kings, transsexuals, intersexuals, etc. — have traditionally had even less say in constructing their cultural identities than gay people have in creating theirs. An ever-accommodating medical profession has kept them as footnotes in the "bizarre case histories" sections of weighty medical texts. More recently, tranny imagery has become a staple of the diet for the insatiable maw of television, from weepy medical and police dramas ("My dear, your girlfriend, yes, your Leslie was ... a man!") to the squalid sideshow of tabloid TV, where revelations of "gender abnormality"

provoke everything from howling laughter to broken noses from the drooling average-American audience.

Fortunately, the objects of this unwanted cultural makeover are not taking all this lying down, as evidenced by the daylong *Tranny Fest*, now in its fourth year. Six programs of 20 film and video shorts, docs, and features make up the show. Some of the titles are reprinted from other fests; others are premieres. Inevitably, in a grassroots event like this there's sometimes less artistry than activism, but why not? Film festivals don't, or need not, exist in a vacuum outside cultural politics.

That said, let's look at some of the high- and low-lights of this year's *Tranny Fest*, to be held Saturday, Nov. 21, from Noon to midnight at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street.

In Program #1 (Noon), *Play* (1997), Shamiran Samiano's brief glance at a basketball-playing butch, redeems its too cheesy ambiance when a fetching femme wanders by and the butch suddenly turns on her beloved basketball. *Sadsmith Manze Performance* (Boyd Kodak and Cat Grant, 1998) and *Remembrance* (David McPherson and Chris McCune, 1997) tap the page 44 ►

## Rocking in the queer world

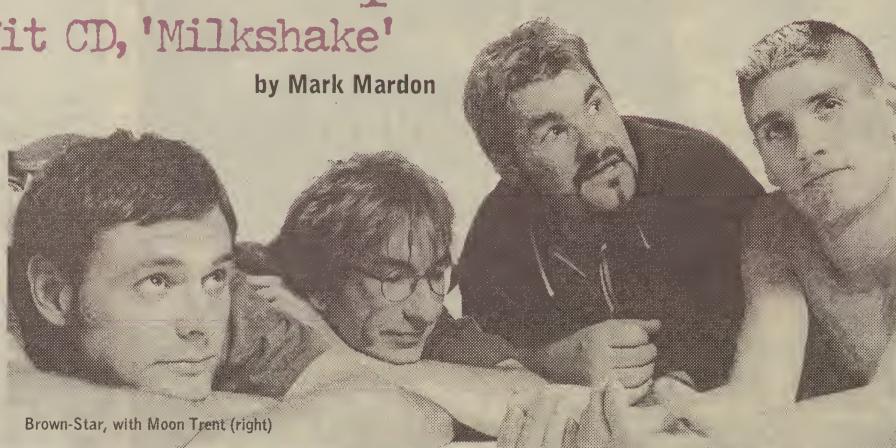
### Ballad of a benefit CD, 'Milkshake'

by Mark Mardon

**S**omewhere in the middle of being interviewed, while kicking back on a couch in his drummer's North Beach living room, drinking beer, laughing, and feeling good, Moon Trent, lead singer of the rock band Brown-Star and co-owner of timmi-kat ReCoRDS, drops a bombshell.

It doesn't seem like one at first, the way Trent slips the news in casually, as though it's just another of the countless crazy things that have happened to him since diving into the music biz nine years ago while attending Modesto Junior College. It's as if every day a record distributor goes belly up, unable to pay its debts and leaving the producer of an indie album high and dry. No doubt it happens all the time; the recording industry is brutal. But here's a producer, Trent, to whom it's actually happening, and he's almost giggling. It's like he's shell-shocked.

The way Trent describes it, Cargo Records America page 47 ►



Marc Gelber

Brown-Star, with Moon Trent (right)

by Roberto Friedman  
and the Sexagenarians

Give that man a hand dept.: We do have to hand it to gay pop singer/busted Beverly Hills toilet snipe **George Michael**, whose new greatest hits CD, *Ladies & Gentlemen, The Best of George Michael*, has just appeared in record stores. The upshot is: he's not letting his little restroom sex scandal of yesteryear cause him any shame, and right on for him. In the uncensored version of the video for his new single "Outside" (presumably not the version now on rotation on MTV), he sings a paean to public sex in which uninhibited couples of all possible permutations start doing the nasties on rooftops, pools, a locker room, etc., only to be busted by the Sex Police, who



George Michael

arrive in SWAT formation, in helicopters, etc. All very well and good, but Georgie-Porgie, whatever were you thinking, having al-

legedly wild, radical homosex in the Beverly belly of the police state? We'd recommend hiring a professional who can help you realize your fantasies with all the sex, but much less risk.



Marilyn Monroe

Speaking of being sexy in public, in *Autumn Stephens' new Drama Queens, Wild Women of the Silver Screen* (Conari Press), we learn the secret behind **Marilyn Monroe's** wiggly walk: La Monroe cleverly removed a smidgen of one shoe heel to give herself that suggestively swaying gait. We realize this can't be news to more than a few drag queens out there, but we had never thought of it.

The autumnally-named Stephens also weighs in on the question of whether **Bette Davis** was "really as big a pain in the posterior as she's cracked up to be? Yes. 'I know I've been a perfect bitch,' the pop-eyed icon once admitted. 'But I couldn't help myself!'

#### We stoop to conquer

What to make of the sexuality of young studmuffin **Jonathon Schaech**? As a handsome leading man with a 100 megawatt smile, Schaech has been paired onscreen with the likes of **Winona Ryder** (*How to Make an American Quilt*) and **Gwyneth Paltrow** (*Hush*), and he now stars as the central boytoy in *Welcome to Woop Woop* (see **Robert Julian's** review in these pages). But Schaech seems to have a penchant for working with queer directors like **Gregg Araki** in films like *The Doom*



Johnathon Schaech

*Generation* and the upcoming *Splendor*, and **Stephan Elliott** in *Woop Woop*. It's also interesting to note that Schaech, in his first-ever talk show appearance this year, sat down with **Rosie O'Donnell**.

Near the end of their interview, he actually changed the subject of their conversation to confess to Rosie that, just like her, he had a major crush on **Tom Cruise** when he was in high school. Hmmm... None of this is conclusive, of course, but if we didn't stoop to this kind of speculation, we wouldn't be Out There, would we?



Wanting to know what exactly Edna did to deserve a Turkey Day in her honor, Out There called up our City Hall connection. "Well, you know Dame Edna's special contribution to the world is one of caring and sharing," said our source, "and after all, that's what the holiday is all about."

#### Close encounters

There was lots of sex appeal on display at the latest round of openings at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts last weekend, but it was all coming from the artists being feted, and not necessarily from their work. The chunky rubric *Ecotopias* managed to cover a lot of ground, from Japanese artist **Kenji Yanobe's** self-portraits during recent visits to Chernobyl, *The Atom Suit Project*, to work by **Mark Dion** and **Natalie Jeremijenko**, to *Bicycle Culture*, curated by **Slimm Buck**, a gallery full of low rider and mountain bikes, with some spiffy custom-made creations, but also plenty of vehicles which

looked, you should excuse the expression, downright pedestrian. We guess from the Guggenheim's recent motorcycle show to this bike show isn't that great a leap, but it didn't pack much aesthetic wallop.

Unlike art-world star **Alexis Rockman**, whom we finessed to meet by holding the press table hostage. Rockman was gorgeous from stem to stern, charming and personable and leaving a gaggle of usual-suspect queens weak-kneed in his wake, but demonstrably married in a heterosexual way. His mural "A Recent History of the World" held the anteroom just beyond YBC's great room.

#### March of crimes

Readers of this column know we do not often get on the soapbox to drum up funds, but here's a worthy cause that hits home. This past summer, gay community photographer **Rick Gerharter** was in London, on his way to cover the Gay Games in Amsterdam, when all of his camera equipment (three cameras and lenses, flash, filters, bag, money, and press pass) was stolen — a loss to the tune of seven grand. Rick's insurer, true to form, refused to cover the loss. And as he puts it, "Photographing our community may be glamorous (because we are), but it is seldom lucrative."

That's why he's soliciting donations to help pay for replacement equipment. If you've enjoyed his photos in these pages, consider kicking in something (any amount helps) in a check payable to Rick Gerharter Photography, and mail it to PO Box 420268, SF, CA 94142.

#### A bridge too far

On a personal note, we must bid a fond adieu to our dear friend **Missy Corey**, who is making a bold career move all the way down to Bland Diego. We know her friends and admirers will miss her, including all the Quicktricks with whom she has built a Bridge to the 21st century. We've known her from way back, when we were both *Proof Room* boys at the *Recorder* and you could still rent a working-man's flat in this town for less than 5 C's. Farewell and godspeed, Johnny — and if you must go up in your daddy's stunt plane, darling, please remember

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#### Anticlimactic

Meanwhile, we just loved the sexily juicy anecdote about the shooting of **Gus Van Sant's Psycho** remake, an item we found in the December *Details*. It seems that during the famous shower scene (with lesbian actress **Anne Heche** totally nude and wetted down in the **Janet Leigh** role), hunky **Vince Vaughn**, in **Anthony Perkins** peeing-ton mode, practiced some choice Method acting — namely, he began jerking off. "Well, it is the **Bates** motel," he is quoted as saying. The scenario strikes *Details* as très '90s: gay director shooting straight actor beating off watching famed lesbo. Unfortunately, the star stroke shots wound up falling to the proverbial cutting-room floor like ribbons of jism after a "quickie." From the grave, **Hitchcock** breathes a fetid sigh of relief.

#### Official bizness

Since she's come to the Bay Area, sexy Australian megastar **Dame Edna Everage** has certainly not stinted on the press and photo opportunities — do they breed them to be Media Giants Down Under? — but she's topped herself once again (sounds sexy). On Monday, she received the official proclamation from SF supervisor **Mark Leno** and the rest of the Board of Supes declar-

## THEATRE

# 'From the Hip' at NCT

## Twin peaks

by Richard Dodds

How many jokes and puns can you concoct around Siamese twins? You'd be surprised. In *From the Hip* (*Siamese Twin Variations*) at the New Conservatory Theatre, the gross-out groaners arrive almost without pause. "You know I don't have a stomach for food," says Sassy Sheraton, the all-American conjoined twin who shares a "star-spangled bladder" with sister Sissy.

Blair Fell, the author of *From the Hip*, claims he came up with his satire of the real-life Hilton twins before the creators of the musical *Side Show* tapped into the same source for their considerably more serious take on the subject. But *From the Hip* would open off-Broadway last year after *Side Show* had already begun its short but celebrated Broadway run. Eventually, it seemed like a send-up of its solemn uptown cousin.

In San Francisco, *From the Hip* began performances just as *Side Show* was finishing up its run in Mountain View. For those who made the trek to see the ambitious TheatreWorks production, *From the Hip* could have an extra kick as the pretensions of the previous show get stripped away. But an exposure to *Side Show* is not required to catch the drift of *From the Hip*, which mostly has its fun in skewering show-biz clichés.

Maggie Moore, who played Sissy in New York, also wrote a collection of songs for the show that are broad pastiches of popular-music styles.

The real-life Hilton sisters started in a freak show before moving to vaudeville and, briefly, to Hollywood. The Sheraton sisters follow a similar trajectory, though once in Hollywood, they try to pass as unjoined sisters by disguising the plainer and less-talented Sassy as various props (like the stake to which Sissy's Joan of Arc is lashed). This imbalance in acclaim begins to take its toll on their relationship, leading Sassy to sing, "Sissy got the body of Venus; me, I got no place to put a penis."

The Pride Season production directed by Stephen Rupsch is a spirited and amiably unslick affair that is largely driven by Caitlin McClure's and Michelle Darby's performances as Sissy and Sassy. Starting out as interchangeable personalities with big hair and hyper-Brooklyn accents, the actresses delightfully evolve, with McClure's pseudo-glamorous Sissy becoming an outsized caricature in the Marilyn Monroe-Jayne Mansfield mold, while Darby's Sassy turns increasingly into a bitter schlep.

All the other roles are shared by Mary Jo Mrochinski and Otis Morgan. Mrochinski scores best as a Russian peasant woman who becomes president of the sisters' fan club. Morgan does a good job

Caitlin McClure and Michelle Darby in *From the Hip*

with the nerdy Lobster Boy, a fellow freak-show performer in love with Sassy, though he doesn't quite have the comic chops for his other characters.

*From the Hip* revels in a bad taste that sometimes skirts the edge, and the thalidomide jokes probably cross it. But mostly, the tale is told with a knowing silliness that doesn't overstay its welcome. Barely 90 minutes long with the intermission, this is a show that knows that slight should also be short. ▶

*From the Hip* (*Siamese Twin Variations*) will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through Jan. 16. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 861-8972.

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# 'Da funk what am Savion Glover's Broadway baby taps into town

by Robert Julian

The collective journey of African-Americans in the United States is the subject matter that informs the musical *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk*. The book and lyrics by Reg E. Gaines, and music by Daryl Waters, Zane Mark and Ann Duquesnay, trace the progress of black Americans from 18th-century slavery to 1990s hip-hop. But the heart and soul of this play is the dancing, choreographed by Savion Glover. Tap dancing, which emerged from the African-American experience to take its place as a unique American dance form, receives a wonderful showcase here, in the hands of extraordinary dancers.

The initial concept for *Noise/Funk* came from director George C. Wolfe, whose latest effort is the revival of *On The Town* that is about to open on Broadway. Wolfe also directs this road company of *Noise/Funk*, with Savion Glover's original choreography. ▶

Vickilyn Reynolds in *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk*

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## 'The Possibilities' at the Next Stage Humanity under siege

by Richard Dodds

**H**oward Barker is a prolific, difficult British playwright whose works have only trickled into this country. For some, even that may be too much of a flow. "The most terrifying export since football hooliganism," wrote a critic in London's *Daily Telegraph*. The theater press of his country has also called him "a

misfit," "an elitist," "arrogant," and "a ranting wildman."

San Francisco is getting a rare taste of the aptly named Barker with a production his 1988 play *The Possibilities*, a collection of 10 fables that take place on the torn edges of meaningless wars and revolutions. Ironies about love, lust, family, power, oppression, knowledge, and vengeance emerge in the smartly acted production presented by foolsFURY. Take-home messages are harder to come by.

"Art does not benefit from the conscience of its creator," Barker wrote in a 1997 essay. "A drama-

tist who thinks you ought to know something, probably for your own benefit, can never allow the imagination an honest autonomy." Certainly there is no moral high ground on display in *The Possibilities*, a condition that can both challenge and confound the audience.

When a family of weavers, huddled against a battle being fought for their village, discovers that the blood of the slain soldiers makes an excellent dye, one family member timidly questions the propriety of this enterprise. "You quibble with the will of God?" comes the rebuke.

In another scene, an emperor shares his anguish at his soldiers' sufferings with his groom, who assures him that what is needed is a good night's sleep that will leave him looking rested and better able to instill confidence. "So it is in their interest that I do not listen to their cries," the emperor convinces himself, and not without some reason.

In a bureaucrat's office in a post-revolutionary society, a woman who has dared to show a provocative glimpse of ankle is accused of inspiring despair in the male population. "You subvert his right to be a simple man," she is told. "You oppress him."

### Queasy street

These are among the more accessible segments in the collection, which can grow murky and opaque. Most, however, possess a kind of queasy staying power that attests to Barker's effective manipulation of language and images.

It also attests to director Ben Yalom's careful exploration of the material, and to his ensemble cast's skill at taking on a variety of characters that are seldom rooted in standard dramatic realities. Among the characters and per-



Red S. Yalom

Todd Parmley as the Bookseller in *The Possibilities*

formers that stand out are Wendell Willat as the despairing emperor; Timothy Hull as his groom and, in another scene, a torturer-for-hire; Todd Parmley as a paranoid bookseller; Tessa Koning-Martinez as the ankle bearer; and Tessa Zugmeyer as her cheerily chilly interrogator. Also making contributions are Linda Ayres-Frederick, Janis DeLucia, and Danny Wolahan.

Todd Barker's percussion and sound effects help punctuate and enliven the production, which provides an intriguing introduction to the idiosyncratic Barker. For its program cover, foolsFURY picked a quote from the playwright that, by the time the play was over, seemed particularly apt: "In a time when nothing is clear, the infliction of clarity is stale arrogance."

*The Possibilities* will run at the Next Stage in the Trinity Episcopalian Church through Dec. 6. Tickets are \$9-\$15. Call 863-6200.

Riccardo Hernandez. "Pan Handlers" gives the drummers their first opportunity to shine in a number played solely on pots and pans. And "Somethin' From Nuthin'" eloquently portrays the way African-Americans not only recreated themselves from the depths of oppression but went on to pioneer unique forms of dance and music.

The company turns in some unforgettable moments, but the show suffers from a lack of continuity between numbers and problematic pacing. Despite everyone's best efforts, the show never quite catches fire enough to grab the audience's attention and hold it. Beyond the play's thematic content, this is a show which revolves around percussion — the incessant rhythmic beat of taps or drums — a sound which can be hypnotic and engrossing to dancers and musicians, but somewhat off-putting to others. *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* is a challenging, uneven show, but its startling originality makes it a worthy inclusion in this year's "Best of Broadway" season.

*Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* plays through November 26 at the Golden Gate Theater in San Francisco. Tickets may be obtained through BASS Ticket Centers or at the Orpheum Theater box office at 1192 Market Street.

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# The killing of Sister Whale

Ian McKellen stars as Frankenstein's gay dad in 'Gods and Monsters'

by Robert Julian

Queer actor Ian McKellen gets to play queer director James Whale in Bill Condon's new film *Gods and Monsters*. Much of the film takes place in 1957 during Whale's last days, when the washed-up Hollywood director was remembered — if at all — only for directing *Frankenstein* and *The Bride of Frankenstein*. Screenwriter/director Condon adapts Christopher Bram's biography, *Father of Frankenstein*, with an eye to metaphor. Who are the gods, who are the monsters, and what are their roles and responsibilities? But these heady questions do not get their full exploration in the resulting film, which is strictly *Death in Venice* meets *Sunset Boulevard*.

James Whale's career is over and his health is failing; we find him entrusted to the care of his faithful housekeeper Hannah (Lynn Redgrave) in his Pacific Palisades manse. A wildly swishy film student shows up to interview Whale about his career, provoking the first of Whale's many autobiographical flashbacks. But the real meat of the film, so to speak, is the arrival of Whale's ex-Marine lawn dog, Boone (Brendan Fraser). Boone, in a sleeveless T-shirt and chinos, pouts his way around the lawnmower, attracting the rapt attention of Whale, who eventually gets the young gardener to pose for a portrait. A weirdly skewed camaraderie develops between the aging queer director and the young hunk who is impressed by Whale's artistic credentials. Whale offers glimpses of his Hollywood past while enticing Boone to remove more clothing with each sitting. Boone gets increasingly nervous about the nature of their relationship, while Whale becomes more despondent and desperate. On the sidelines, Boone's girl-

friend (Lolita Davidovich) and the housekeeper Hannah insert themselves into the men's relationship in destructive ways. The end, when it comes, recalls the wretched cinematic humiliation of *Sister George* — minus the "Moooooo!"

### Iago in a maid's uniform

As Hannah, Lynn Redgrave almost steals the film. In her stiff, starched uniform, she oversees her master's life. And in her deliberate manipulations and homophobic betrayal, Hannah reveals her personality to be more along the lines of Iago than Desdemona. Ian McKellen, one of the finest actors of his generation, is not working up to his potential in a role that seems tailor-made for him. His portrayal of Whale lacks dramatic edge, as does Brendan Fraser's rendering of the gardener Boone. The tension between the two men, which should be visceral, somehow gets reduced to an intellectual proposition, diluted by McKellen's blank stares as he recalls The Great War and Hollywood in the '30s. There is more fire in the reactions of Boone's girlfriend and Whale's housekeeper. Although the film works on many levels, especially in its visual recreation of the times, its reach exceeds its grasp. The credit and the blame rest squarely on the shoulders of writer/director Bill Condon.

Condon clearly set out to make a film that plays with the metaphors of *Frankenstein*. He draws a clear parallel between Whale's role as cinematic god and his role in creating the relationship with Boone, who becomes the surrogate monster. Other gods and monsters are also offered in the guise of Hollywood stars, directors, and film students. But almost half of the film consists of the dialogue between Boone and Whale, and these scenes are the



Brendan Fraser as Boone in *Gods and Monsters*

logue always plays like side-by-side monologues, disconnected and often tedious; the audience gets neither titillation nor assignation.

There are moments of real poetry in Condon's script, such as Whale's description of his hard-scrabble childhood in England when the effeminate youngster was taken out of school by his parents and forced to work, "like a family of farmers who've been given a giraffe and don't know what to do with him except harness him to a plow." And Condon has found some amazing lookalikes to play Elizabeth Taylor, Boris Karloff, and Elsa Lanchester. Their presence, and the inclusion of clips from *The Bride of Frankenstein*, help create a verisimilitude that is rare in films that attempt to portray Hollywood's Golden Age.

At the end of the film, Boone — the married father of a young boy — gets to recall Whale and the brief period they spent together. After watching *The Bride of Frankenstein* on television with his son, Boone has to take out the garbage. He places the lid atop the trash can in the harsh glow of a streetlight, then disappears into the evening fog, stomping down the alley in a conscious recreation of the monster's gait. It is a remarkable moment, one that recalls just how wonderful *Gods and Monsters* could have been, and almost was. ▼



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# 'Now who's the bitch?'

'International Sweethearts of Rhythm' in Queer Documentaries series

by Gary Morris

Jazz, like most commercial musical forms, has been a male-dominated form since its inception. This undoubtedly grew in part out of cultural expectations and demands — women trained from childhood as caregivers, homemakers, self-sacrificing mothers, and compliant wives could not be expected to take on the grueling occupation of jazz player, which usually involved little money, long hours, and endless travel on an allegedly corrupt road. And there was rarely a happy reception for those few women who forced their way into the field. Worth repeating is the famous story of Dizzy Gillespie's band reacting in horror when their leader imported trombonist/arranger Melba Liston: "You sent all the way to California for a bitch?" The joke was on them when Liston's complex arrangements confounded the band's abilities, and their sweet comeuppance from Gillespie's own lips still resonates: "Now who's the bitch?"

The rarity of simpatico men like Gillespie in the field was no barrier to the most determined women. In 1939, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm were born in Mississippi; they made their debut at the Howard Theater in Washington, D.C. This 16-piece band, who played every venue



The International Sweethearts of Rhythm

from churches and schools to the hotspots of Baltimore, D.C., and Chicago, were pioneers on several fronts: all women, multiracial, and best of all, red-hot players with standout soloists like Tiny Davis on trumpet and the gloriously butch Vi Burnside on saxophone. Their amazing career, which lasted about a decade, is the subject of Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss's enticing but far too brief (a mere 30 minutes) documentary *International Sweethearts of Rhythm*, the first showing in Frameline's new queer documen-

tary series beginning November 25 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Many of the women were still around when the film was made in 1986, so there's a wealth of primary source material in the form of interviews. All of these women — from still-elegant bandleader/singer Anna Mae Winburn to raucous Tiny Davis — objected vehemently to being written off in some quarters as a novelty band, and 1940s clips of them performing support their view, not their critics' Winburn's sexy lyrics like

"Baby rock me with that jelly roll!!" are punctuated by superb solos, and in fact the group eventually was taken seriously, to the point that they could challenge male groups in the popular "battle of the bands" usually restricted to males vs. males. At one such event they played against Fletcher Henderson's group. They were given their due begrudgingly by male musicians who had to compete against them and sometimes lost in the hot licks department.

#### On the chitlin' circuit

The "sweethearts" ate, slept, and lived together, forming tighter-than-family bonds. They traveled on a bus through the notorious chitlin' circuit, cleverly evading southern racist cops who divined or discovered there were white women in the band. Roz, a white member of the group, laughingly recalls the many ways her bandmates tried to help her pass for black with innumerable skin-and-hair dye jobs that sometimes left her looking "monstrous." At a time when foreign travel was far out of the reach of most black Americans, the Sweethearts spent six months on tour in Europe. In their formative period they were like pied piper, luring talented female players into the group and far away — geographically and in every other way — from their families on the same day they auditioned them.

Inevitably there were lesbian overtones to the scene, expressed most enthusiastically by legendary tough-gal Tiny Davis. She recalls with unabashed lust her first view of the women whose ranks she was about to enter: "I met all those beautiful sweethearts, all these yellow, brown, white pretty girls..." Tiny's story

is the subject of an equally brief but scintillating documentary that accompanies the Sweethearts' story.

*Tiny and Ruby: Hell-Divin' Women* shows the still-charismatic Tiny (born in 1909) and her lover, drummer Ruby Lucas, keeping house, reminiscing, entertaining their family, and practicing for gigs that never materialize — "I got what it takes," Tiny says stoically, "but ain't nobody wanna take it!" Old newspaper clippings show in what high regard she was once held. One calls Louis Armstrong and Tiny Davis "the King and Queen of Horn," while another from her tour of Panama screams in what sounds like a bad translation, "More thousands demand Tiny!"

One of the most intriguing aspects of her life is her unrepentant dykedom. While Ruby is a model of regal restraint, 76-year-old Tiny is enchantingly vulgar. Recounting their first meeting, Ruby describes how the band used to go to the entrepreneurial Tiny's after-hours because "she sold drinks, and food, and all that stuff —" and Tiny interrupts off-screen with a loud "AND PUSSY!" Ruby's mock-shock at her lover's lewdness is brief, and they're both quickly cackling about "being run out of town" for their lesbian trysts. Home movies shot at one of their favorite Kansas City gay bars in the 1950s gives a tantalizing view of the subterranean pleasures and terrors of that scene.

Closing the bill is Etang Inyang's 16-minute ode/protest to Pam Grier, *Badass Supermama*. Grier's role as the pimp-slaving, pusher-murdering community activist in blaxploitation classic *Foxy Brown* is heavily sampled, with Inyang interpolating "conversations" with Grier's character about sexism, gender issues, and body images. When the director asks plaintively, "Where are the women in your world?" the answer is in a clip from *Foxy Brown's* dyke bar sequence, where Grier beats the hell out of a bunch of uncooperative bull dykes. Inyang's objections to her idol's allegedly unprogressive attitudes put a lot on the shoulders of a two-dimensional movie character, but not to worry — Grier is oblivious to it all, protected by being literally and figuratively in a filmic space far out of Inyang's grasp. ▼

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# 'Woop Woop': Oops!

'Priscilla's director Stephan Elliott stumbles on second outing

by Robert Julian

The Adventures of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, made queer Aussie film director Stephan Elliott an overnight sensation. *Priscilla's* costume designer Lizzy Gardiner subsequently won an Oscar and upstaged the entire awards ceremony in a dress made of American Express gold cards. These two creative spirits are joined by *Priscilla's* production designer, Owen Paterson, and composer Guy Gross for Elliott's new film, *Welcome to Woop Woop*. Once again, the visuals are spectacular; but almost everything else in this cinematic wasteland is a disaster.

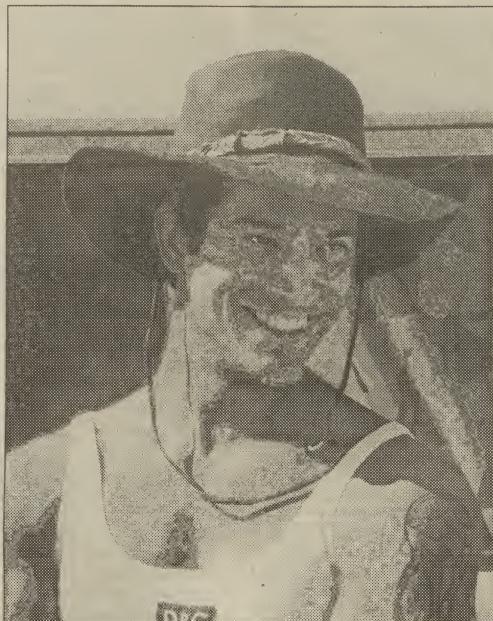
The most compelling thing about *Welcome to Woop Woop* is the director's decision to keep his leading man, Jonathon Schaech (pronounced Shek) half-naked for most of the film. One of the cinema's most alluring boytoys, Schaech runs around naked or in wet jockey shorts for about ten percent of the film. On more than one occasion, the camera discovers Schaech spread-eagled, face down on the ground, wearing only his shorts. In an interesting counterpoint, his co-star, Susie Porter, is directed to play the sex-crazed Angie as a total cartoon, which only adds to Schaech's stature as the film's one genuine sex object. In a motion picture with anything else going

for it, this phenomenon would be worth only a footnote, but Schaech's appeal may be the only reason *Woop Woop* saw the light of day.

The film, ostensibly a comedy, opens on the streets of Manhattan as Teddy (Schaech) tries to sell some contraband Australian parrots to a buyer (Tina Louise of *Gilligan's Island*). The deal goes south, the birds are released into the skies, and Teddy heads off for the Australian outback to follow his birds. Once there, Teddy meets Angie (Porter), who drugs him into a shotgun wedding and then holds him captive in the tiny town of Woop Woop, which we are told was founded on the site of an old asbestos mine. The brain-dead, boozing denizens of Woop Woop are ruled with an iron fist by Angie's father Daddy-O (Rod Taylor); no one is allowed to leave town without Daddy-O's permission. The rest of the film revolves around Teddy's attempts to escape his captors.

#### Theatre queens

For reasons never explained, the denizens of Woop Woop spend most of their spare time in group screenings of old Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals like *South Pacific*, smoking dope and singing along with the lyrics. The general ambiance of Woop Woop falls somewhere between New Orleans' Mardi Gras and a Sante-



Jim Sheridan

Jonathon Schaech as Teddy in *Welcome to Woop Woop*

ria ritual, and the production designers and costumer have come up with a singularly original creation. But director Elliott relies too heavily on cinematic tricks pulled from the hat of *Priscilla*,

his debut film. Once again, the viewer is treated to long, panoramic shots of the Australian desert, interrupted by blasts of pop music, but this time around, the technique is neither

fresh nor original. Here Elliott's fertile imagination drowns in its own fertilizer.

The critical flaw of *Welcome to Woop Woop* is the absence of a script. The screenplay is credited to one Michael Thomas, but press materials provide no information whatsoever about this person. Hopefully, Michael Thomas is a pseudonym, because this script is the kind of career-killing disaster that no one would want on a résumé. As a comedic sex farce, *Welcome to Woop Woop* is pointless and, worst of all, not funny. The cast does admirably well under the circumstances, playing their roles in an appropriately broad manner. The brief appearance of Tina Louise, and Rod Taylor's co-starring effort as Daddy-O, should make the film something of a curiosity for cinema buffs. To relieve the tedium, viewers may enjoy drawing parallels between the career arc of studly young Schaech and that of the aged, grizzled Taylor, who was once the comely leading man of '60s Hitchcock films *The Birds* and *Marnie*. It is never a good sign when the viewer must create exercises unrelated to a motion picture to maintain his interest, but *Welcome to Woop Woop* is one of those films. ▼

**Welcome to Woop Woop** is now playing at Bay Area theaters.

# Reel to reel

by Deborah Peifer

*Reel Time* by Julia Willis; Alyson, \$11.95

I suppose there are funnier writers than Julia Willis (*We Oughta Be in Pictures*), but I'd be hard-pressed to name them. In her first foray into noveldom, Willis uses the metaphors and images of the movies to create as winning and vibrant a collection of characters as I've met in a long time. Oh, yes, and *Reel Time* is laugh-out-loud funny, too.

Lana Turner Tuttle has just learned that she is leaving her lover. "Actually it was a relief when she told me I was leaving her. She didn't exactly put it that way, but she was the one who'd fallen in love with someone else, so I was the one who'd be leaving. Because it was her house." With her now ex-lover hot to install the new love, Laney has to find a place to live and start looking for happily ever after all over again. A mysterious redhead may be the key to sexual fulfillment; if not undying love, but only if they can ever actually be introduced. If relationship angst weren't trouble enough, Laney's job at a Cambridge, Massachusetts movie revival house is in serious jeopardy, owing to her boss's, Irwin's, insistence on running too many John Ford festivals, so the audience won't be too gay.

Willis uses language with a surgeon's skill to expose, to reveal, to skewer. Consider Laney's observation as she gazes at the theatre marquee: "I stare catatonically at the marquee. THE BLUE ANGEL, it reads, and MOROC-



CO. Irwin and I argued over that first title. He wanted it in German, Der Blaue Engel, which I considered too great an affection even for Cambridge." After spilling scalding coffee on herself for the third time, Laney realizes: "Suddenly, I'm wide awake. I often think it's not the caffeine in franchised coffee I crave, but the spilling and the screaming instead. ... No, nothing gets me up and moving like a good second-degree burn, maybe with an onion bagel to go with it."

Whether describing the horrors of lesbian dating, or worse, the horrors of not dating, Julia Willis brings good humor, OK, wicked humor, and real tenderness to a real-time look at lesbian lives. If you are also a fan of old movies, you'll enjoy the references to classic scenes from classic films. Even if your idea of a great time is anything but a movie, you'll enjoy meeting the characters who inhabit *Reel Time*. ▼

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## Lawrence Pech Dance Company at Yerba Buena Center ImPechable

by Aimée Ts'ao

The Lawrence Pech Dance Company's first season at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater is certainly a big step for this relatively new (founded in 1995) and still quite small ensemble. Hopefully, this change of venue from Theatre Artaud will attract a much broader audience and put this gem of a company firmly on the map of professional companies in the Bay Area.

Two premieres and two pieces from the repertory made up the program. The two new works, interestingly both choreographed by principal dancers at the San Francisco Ballet, Julia Adam and Yuri Possokhov, were, fortunately, in entirely different veins. Possokhov's *Spanish Song* was danced to a live performance of Albéniz's "Cordoba" from *Cantos de España* by guitarists Eric Cabalo and Gyan Riley. This solo for Wendy Van Dyck was remarkable for its ability to draw out her hidden emotional depths. Though she danced very well in the other pieces, here she seemed to have found a choreographer whose language resonated with her inner voice, and her dancing was utterly transformed. There were some intriguing phrases of movement and some very original shapes, and my only complaint is that I didn't get to see even more of them.

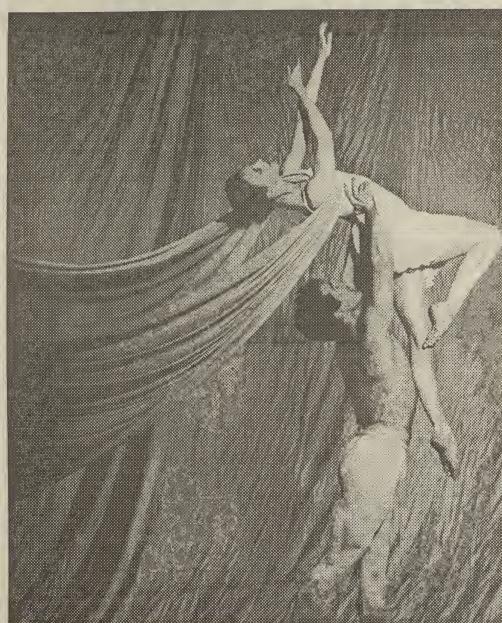
Against a plain background, an enormous drape of vivid red fabric provided a foil for Ms. Van Dyck's beautiful white dress by Cassandra Carpenter. The guitarists seated on stage would have been fine, but their music stands were a jarring bit of reality that ruined the aesthetic.

### Adam's apples

*Newton (Three Laws of Motion)*, choreographed by Julia Adam, is loosely based on the famous physicist's work. The first two sections were to music by Bach, and the third to Mozart, all very well performed live by an ensemble under the direction of Michael Schroeder with soprano Marini Breckenridge. In a bit of unfortunate programming, this piece came third, after Pech's opening *Euphonia*, which was danced to three Bach compositions. Because music has a way of getting under my skin and into my muscles, I couldn't help but make unconscious comparisons.

What I really want to know is why does Bach induce choreographers to use a lot of running (literally) around? I suspect that having so many notes crammed into such short spaces of time in such intricately engineered structures leaves dancers at a loss. How could they possibly cope? So they just throw their hands (and feet) up in the air and take off.

But there is lots of humor and whimsy in Adam's carefully crafted



Mark Estes

Lawrence Pech and Wendy Van Dyck

choreography. I would almost say that it was too formulaic, except that it completely suited the scientific subject. Especially funny was the costuming. The first section's unisex outfit of jackets, slacks and hats gave way to the slacks and T-shirts of the second part, and the piece ended with everyone in boxer shorts and undershirts by the third section. Since it's been years since I took Physics, I would have appreciated seeing Newton's Laws printed in the program. Ideally, I should have been able to figure them out from watching the ballet, but Adam, though she did a reasonably good job, didn't quite make them all crystal-clear, even though the rain of apples at the end should have enlightened me.

Pech's own works, *Euphonia*

and *The Enigma Variations*, opened and closed the evening. I am particularly struck by his ability to structure his choreography so that it gently reflects the musical compositions without slavishly following them. Although all the dancers are of high caliber, it is Pech's own highly musical dancing which shows exactly what his intentions are in each phrase.

Pech is committed to maintaining a repertory that includes many styles of dance, by other choreographers as well as himself. He understands that dancers need a varied diet on which to sharpen their artistic teeth, and the audience needs the stimulation of different dance perspectives. I also applaud his efforts to provide live performances of the music whenever economically feasible. ▼

## Power plays

Oakland Ballet's third program of the fall season was a powerful combination of two premieres by Bay Area choreographers Betsy Erickson and Alonzo King and a revival of Eugene Loring's *Billy the Kid*. Opening the evening was King's *Hovering Slightly Above Ground*, commissioned for the company. To the music of Henryk Górecki and Paul Giger, King created a striking work for a dozen dancers. Interweaving sections of solo, pas de deux, and ensemble dancing, he revealed new sculptural possibilities for one body and then two bodies together. Perhaps because he was using dancers not his own, he was forced to pare down, and the resulting simplicity was astoundingly beautiful.

Showing the old is just as important as fostering the new. *Billy the Kid* by Loring is a piece which helps us to see how ballet evolved from the classical forms. Despite its now old-fashioned look (it was premiered in 1938), there are still striking moments and interesting uses of mime and gesture. It was well danced by the company in general, and Joral Schmale turned in an excellent performance as *Billy*.

The world premiere of *Beneath the Wake* by Betsy Erickson was the highlight of the evening. To Philip Glass's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Ms. Erickson fashioned choreography of the highest order. She not only created the undulating quality of movement in the water through the actual steps but in the manipulations of several groups of dancers in an ebb and flow. Her musicality is impeccable, and the sheer momentum of her phrasing was hypnotic. ▼



Joral Schmale in Oakland

Dale Higgins

— Aimée Ts'ao

## MUSIC

**Milkshake**

◀ Arts cover

— the outfit in Chicago he picked to distribute 500 copies of *Milkshake*, a compilation CD he and his lover and business partner, David Cole, produced to benefit queer studies programs at San Francisco's Harvey Milk Institute — is poised to declare bankruptcy. Having already shipped *Milkshake* to CD outlets nationwide, Cargo likely will close shop without returning timmi-kat a plug nickel.

"We put it in 15 stores ourselves," says Trent of the remaining 500 *Milkshake* CDs (a thousand total were produced), "but it's very difficult doing it that way." Many copies also sold via the Internet, from Websites maintained by Brown-Star and another band, Red House Painters, both of which have single tracks on the album.

With *Milkshake* costing timmi-kat about \$3,000 to produce and publicize, then half the potential proceeds apparently going down the drain, Trent holds little hope of being able to donate much, if anything, to the Harvey Milk Institute, which is the album's ostensible reason for existing.

"Yet in the very process of revealing these matters to a reporter, Trent is doing what he seems to have a knack for — namely, networking to get things done. And the results of this particular networking session will, in coming days, prove surprising.

**Goals of Milk**

*Milkshake* grew directly out of Trent and Cole's respect for the institution Jonathan Katz and a host of volunteers, plus a dedicated staff of one (the irrepressible Kevin Schaub), have been building since 1994. The album's liner notes include a summary of the Harvey Milk Institute's mission, which is to offer community education "to fulfill the goals of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk [who] through tireless coalition building, campaigning, and good humor ... successfully integrated people and politics across diverse boundaries to educate, empower, and defeat bigotry."

That noble cause, plus Trent's outgoing personality and the partners' aggressiveness in finding recording artists talented enough to help fledgling timmi-kat ReCoRDs sprout wings and take off, led a slew of prominent local, national, and international recording artists to donate tracks for the album.

The result is a boon for those into good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll with a queer edge, as distinct from "queercore," which is rock by and about queers. In all, 15 bands are featured on *Milkshake*, most of them local and relatively unknown, but some of national and international stature ("It was just dumb luck getting Chumbawamba before they got big," beams Trent of the band that headlined this year's San Francisco Gay Pride Celebration at Civic Center). Only a few of them broadly advertise their queerness, such as

local heroes Pansy Division, British wonders Chumbawamba, dyke folkster Phranc, and glamsters Blue Period.

Even those bands with strong queer followings, including Blue Period and Trent's own Brown-Star, elude clear definitions, compromised as they are of gay, bi, transgender, and straight musicians in various combinations.

Of course,



being in a band named Brown-Star, named for a certain puckering portion of the human anatomy, does carry with it a certain queer cachet.

*Milkshake* turns out to be a strong collection, representing a wide range of styles, including the simplest, rawest, six-chord grunge rock of Brown-Star's own "A Bee's Dream," which dips its stick into queer sexuality and comes up with this classic line: "I can feel it getting longer, I can feel it getting thick. It's an obvious reaction, but it almost makes you sick."

Beyond that headbanger, the album sports everything from the catchy folk-pop of Phranc's "The Ballad of the Dumb Hairdresser" to the bluesy ballad "Midnight on the Bay" by Red House Painters, the hard-hitting punk rock of Pansy Division's "Expiration Date," the up-beat funk of Tang's "How Do You Take It?", the retro, vaguely Bowiesque glam-rock of Blue Period's "Monster," the entrancing Gothic dirge of Omewenne's "Violet Morning," and the a cappella, Gaelic-influenced marching anthem "Homophobia" by Chumbawamba.

In addition, Extra Fancy, 7th Betty, 100 Watt Smile, Simon, Stinger, Spackle, Knife in Water, and Perch all add unadulterated rock songs to the album, making *Milkshake* a worthy sampler for those inclined to thrash to many different drummers.

**Squander squad?**

Given the worthiness of the album and the cause it's intended to advance, letting a bankrupt corporation squander the proceeds seems not just unfair, but criminal.

So it is that a give-and-take ensues between the Bay Area Reporter and Cargo Records America. When asked whether Cargo Records America is, in fact, going bankrupt, a representative of the company, Gubby, replies that indeed "the situation is very bad," that the owner, Eric Goodis, "owes a lot of money," and that the business "is going to close its doors."

However, with regard to the *Milkshake* album, which Gubby says he brought in "not knowing where the company would be in three or four months," he wanted to assure Trent, Cole, and every-

one else that the people at Cargo "recognize what this CD is," and that Goodis will personally guarantee that timmi-kat receives all the proceeds due from the album sales.

"That's great news," says Trent after getting the word from Gubby. All Trent has to do now is send along invoices, something Gubby claims Trent never did, which is why he never got reimbursed.

"I sent them hand-written itemized lists," counters Trent. "I thought those were invoices."

Paperwork aside, Trent is relieved that Cargo has got the message that the queers of San Francisco would have a hissy fit if their very own rock album were scuttled by outsiders.

The local rock bands on *Milkshake* need the boost the album gives them, says Trent: "If

you're not from New York or L.A., nobody takes you seriously."

With *Milkshake* nominated for "Album of the Year" at the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMA) to be held in New York City in March 1999, some of our local LGBTQ rockers may soon be earning more respect from far afield. ▼

— by Derek Kent

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# Getting to know Craig Hella Johnson

*Chanticleer's new Music Director*

by Philip Campbell

**C**hanticleer, the only full-time classical vocal ensemble in the country, celebrated its unprecedented 20 years last April with the appointment of Craig Hella Johnson as new Music Director. I met him shortly thereafter, while he still juggled apartment hunting with exploring unfamiliar performance venues. He seemed remarkably calm and poised for the adventure.

This past summer, I saw him again as he observed the chorus's highly acclaimed performances of Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River* at Theater Artaud. Friendly and enthusiastic, Johnson again showed a low-key demeanor. He still wasn't nervous when last we spoke, close to his own first night. Others might well have worried about the task of maintaining the reputation of an internationally admired organization, but I suspect a really solid grounding is what gives him such modest self-confidence.

Judging from the yearbook-style press photo I had first seen, it was a pleasant surprise to find that Johnson is better-looking and more sophisticated in person. Those midwestern Norwegian roots are attractive and unmistakable, but intelligent eyes and a good haircut give his boyishness an urban edge.

Born in Minnesota and a graduate of St. Olaf College, he went on to study at Juilliard and later received a Master of Music in choral conducting at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He attained his Doctor of Musical Arts from Yale, received a National Arts Fellowship and studied at the International Bach Academy, where he learned from Helmuth Rilling and conducted the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and the Bach Collegium. Since 1990, Johnson has been Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas at Austin.

The list goes on, and his accomplishments have earned high praise from such informed sources as National Public Radio, who called him "a Texas treasure." Small wonder he beat a crowded field of close to 100 candidates for the post at Chanticleer. Johnson's confiding that his "daddy" was a Lutheran minister and looking forward to a visit from his old Texas buddies in San Francisco only adds a charmingly earthy slant to an amazing résumé.

## Settling in

Now settled into his Richmond district digs and running with his dog in the Presidio, Craig Hella Johnson is poised on the threshold of international recognition. His commitment to furthering Chanticleer founder Louis Bott's legacy is tangible, and he also seems clear on the importance of preserving the group's justifiable renown as Early Music specialists. Still, longevity demands growth, and Johnson enthusiastically embraces the contemporary repertoire, promising some exciting commissions and collaborations with local performers. In fact, two concerts of the new season already make good on the pledge.

March will bring *In a New Light, Exploring Music by Today's Composers*. The program includes a Bay Area and a world premiere along with a newly commissioned work from local composer Jon Jang, who previously has collaborated with Kronos Quartet and Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

A lively and intriguing series will debut in August as Chanticleer and its new leader join forces with a regional colleague when beloved mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade sings arias and popular



Craig Hella Johnson

ballads arranged especially for the occasion. Called *Chanticleer and Friends*, the program is intended as a yearly opportunity to perform with different ensembles and guest artists.

Another potential highlight of the new year is *Music and Our Search for Meaning* in May. There are two performances scheduled in San Francisco at Chanticleer's signature performing space, the Basilica of Mission Dolores. Anyone who is coming to the group for the first time owes it to himself to attend a concert there. The effect of music in the Basilica is mesmerizing, and it will be a pleasure to see how Craig Hella Johnson responds to the fabulous acoustics there.

He further predicts other adventurous evenings on the road to the new millennium, including the possibility of working with other media, and perhaps including pop, rock and folk on the bill of fare. It is safe to predict the results will be tastefully in keeping with Chanticleer's image—Johnson has no desire to break with a winning tradition, but he clearly wants to facilitate healthy growth.

I look forward to watching Craig Hella Johnson's Northern California career develop and find myself less puzzled by my early subliminal likening of him to another relative newcomer on the local scene, Michael Tilson Thomas. They may not look alike and their childhoods are dissimilar, but they both share a common trait, a powerful love of music that communicates readily. MTT is highly extroverted when he shares his passion, but the quieter choral director is no less persuasive when he warms to his topic.

When I shared this comparison with Johnson and asked him if he managed to have a life outside of music, he laughed and talked about his dog and getting into the great outdoors. I have a hunch, however, that they get their quality time pretty early in the day.

Hard on the heels of these off-hand remarks we chatted about a proposed collaboration between Chanticleer and a very well-known artist who doesn't want an announcement until his schedule is confirmed. Johnson remained discreet, but if your math equals mine, remember you read it here first. In the meantime, we can all welcome a bright new light in the provincial firmament and find new excitement in a cherished institution. ▼

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# The Russians are coming

by Tim Pfaff

Beyond any doubt, the best thing that happened to classical music in the '90s was the fall of the Soviet Union. In strictly musical terms, it was enacted in San Francisco, where in the autumn of 1991 the Opera was presenting, of all things, Prokofiev's *War and Peace* in a hands-across-the-water co-production with the Kirov Opera in St. Petersburg. Make that Leningrad when a major contingent of singers from the Maryinsky Theater, the Kirov's home, arrived in town to rehearse. Make that watch CNN, in front of which they crowded at every break to watch the suits hand over the reins of their homeland in what must have seemed to most of them more like a TV docudrama than reality. Crowning the sense of unreality was the arrival of the maestro, Valery Gergiev, the Kirov's music director (and artistic director, *de facto* manager, hero and soul) bound for his American opera debut, who got on a plane from the Edinburgh Festival a Soviet citizen and deplaned in San Francisco a Russian.

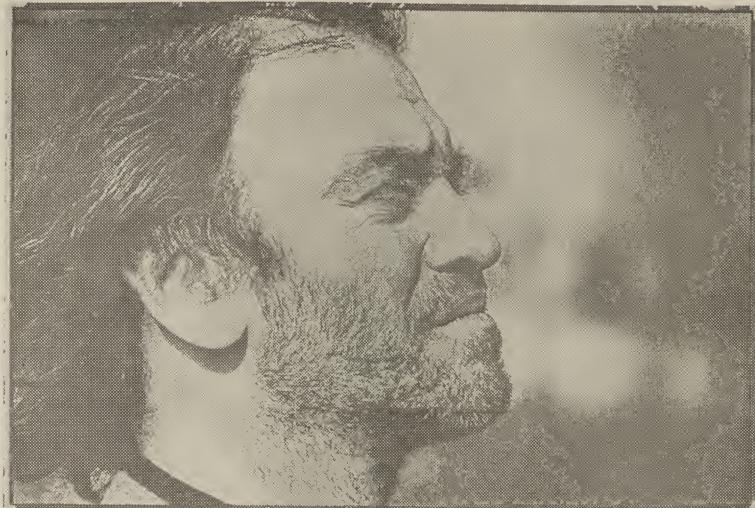
It couldn't have happened to a nicer genius. Gergiev has been the man of the moment ever since. Wherever he is — which is an impossible number of places — is where it's happening. This month, praise Hosodi, that's here. If you missed his appearance with the Kirov Orchestra at Davies Tuesday night, it's not too late. The

## Notes From All Over

Georgian dervish will whirl back into town for the first four performances of Prokofiev's *Betrothal in a Monastery* (Nov. 23, 25, 27 and 28) and then leave his heart in San Francisco functionally forever. After doing the most searching work on the War Memorial stage this decade, he's decamping for the Met, where an exclusive American contract will make him principal guest conductor. Painful as his departure will be locally, you've gotta love a guy for picking the company with the best orchestra in the country and artistic administrator Sally Billingshurst, who as AA here scored him that San Francisco debut and, now, as AA at the Met... Well, you get the picture.

We love you, Sally, oh yes we do. Since you're not with us, we're blue. (Is anyone on the Board, if there still is one, considering Billingshurst as Mansouri's successor?)

If an appearance — on tour — with his orchestra less than a week before an opera opening seems, well, irregular, it's business as usual for Gergiev, who has been known to conduct at the Met and the NY Phil on the same day, and for whom *Betrothal* will be a walk in the cloister. It's his production, after all, the cast is larded with colleagues and compatriots who have performed it with him before (including at the Met, and on tour), and orchestras don't know exactly what he's going to do until he steps into the pit anyway. Mostly, this is how he does it. The gladiatorial musical press machine dotes on the fact that he can remember seeing him eat, or sleep more than an hour at a time. Word has it that he drove our company director nuts by



Maestro Valery Gergiev

strolling in from a pre-performance walk at 7:59 p.m., but hey, whatever works.

### The real thing

What gets said less often is that in a world of cookie-cutter conductors and "maverick" maestros you can hardly tell apart with your eyes closed, Gergiev is, indisputably, the real thing, a musician with the goods, temperament to burn, spontaneity, charisma and a refining and inspiring fire.

He's naturally unsurpassed in

vites it. The recording came out just before Martha Argerich unleashed her Prokofiev Third with MTT in Davies in a performance that raised a bar no one has jumped over locally since. Right after came Argerich's own new recording of the Prokofiev Third and First Concertos (EMI Classics), a release I dreaded since her first recording, with Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic, seemed unlikely to be improved upon. It turns out the new one, with Argerich's former husband, Charles

Dutoit, and his Montreal Symphony, is no less exciting yet, like her Davies performance, even more refined. Separating the two Prokofievs on the disc is a transcendent reading of Bartok's mystical Third Concerto that hovers, à la Yeats, like a perine in a gyre. Don't believe me, take a listen.

Since the pre-season recording recommendations came out — and rightly found the only recording of *Betrothal*, Gergiev's, the one to have — another has appeared on Melodiya/BMG Classics. It's a



Pianist Alexander Toradze

live 1990 recording from Moscow's Bolshoi Theater splendidly conducted by Alexander Lazarev. The cast, which includes no familiar names (Moscow is farther from St. Petersburg, and was even more so in 1990, than it looks on a map), ranges from just fine to damn fine, and there's no overestimating the importance of native Russians in this talky opera. Since the Gergiev version is sold out most everywhere, you could do far worse than investigate the Lazarev.

Just don't miss Gergiev in his element — live. ▼

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



The legendary Juanita MORE!

## Boyz=dumb Trannies=smart

**B**odies are stupid, as film theorist Steven Shaviro noted. Point in case: look out across a dance floor swarming with nearly naked, sweating bodies, and the impression is bovine, like it would be a good place to go cow tipping.

But a nightclub full of transvestites is a whole different matter. They may be vulgar, excessive, irritating, or completely fabulous, but drag queens definitely ain't dumb. Sure, there may be varying levels of IQ among them, but what they all understand better than most is that transvestites rule by brain rather than brawn.

You want to go up to the cutest boy in the bar, pinch him, pat him, coo at him, and rub him hither and yon? Then be a transvestite. Almost certainly, the boy will let you. He's just a dumb vessel for your desire.

You want to screech some song like you were Patti LaBelle's evil, tone-deaf twin sister, and have oodles of boys stuff dollar bills under your panty waist? As a transvestite, no matter how wicked and wrinkled you may appear, if you work it right, you can get boys to come on to you like ants drawn to decaying fruit. Ordinary boys have no taste, just naked instinct, which is like putty in any drag queen's hands.

I bring all this up because if you don't don your once-a-year drag outfit when you attend the Third Annual Miss Trannyshack Pageant this Sunday, November 22, you, too, will be at the mercy of voracious transvestites who will twirl you around their little fingers, make you submit to their wildest demands, and prove you're worthy only as breeding stock. ▼

**The Third Annual Miss Trannyshack Pageant** takes place Sunday, November 22, at 715 Harrison St. (btwn. 3rd & 4th) \$12 door; \$10 advance (tix available at A Different Light Bookstore and NaNa). Doors open 9pm. Show starts 11pm. Presented by Official U.S. Tranny Ambassador Heklina and the legendary Miss Juanita MORE! Co-hosted by the indestructible Pippi Lovestocking. Music by DJ Robeena Diet Biscuit. Judges include The Steve Lady, Miz Ana Matronic, Putanesca, and Impala Discobar. Tranny Hotline: 263-0980.



Pine Bender by William Wegman, one of the many photographs to be auctioned by S.F. Camerawork. See Wednesday.

## Fri 20

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

To memorialize the assassination of Harvey Milk in November, 1978, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hosts a very special commemorative Shabbat service. Includes traditional Shabbat liturgy as well as time to remember Harvey Milk and the accomplishments of the Gay Liberation Movement over the past 20 years. Elected officials, including Assemblywoman Migden, Supervisors Ammiano, Bierman, Brown, Katz, and Leno, and friends of Harvey Milk will join in the worship. Followed by a Tikkun Leyl, an all night study session, co-sponsored by the Harvey Milk Institute. Rabbi Jane Litman, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Professor Jonathan Katz, and author Suzanne Loeb will be among the teachers. All welcome. Refreshments served all night. 8:15pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: 861-6932.

### A Different Light

Carol Guess reads from *Switch*, a book revealing the secret lives and longings of so-called "ordinary" people. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

### SF Art Commission Gallery

Continuing exhibit, "Harvey Milk: Second Sight," curated by Bob Kelley, featuring images from the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Archives. Free. Thru 12/19. Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Info: 252-2568, or e-mail [sfac.tels.org](http://sfac.tels.org).

### McKenna Theater, SFSU

Screening of "Rice & Potatoes," a documentary on the dynamics of gay Asian-Caucasian relationships, and "a seeker," an experimental short film on one man living in two cultures, gay and Chinese. \$5. 8pm. San Francisco State University, 1600 Hol-

loway Ave. (btwn. 19th Ave. & Tapi). 861-6326.

### ODC Theater

Enrico Labayen and company present "Songs of the Water," a dance concert inspired by Philippine and Philippine American experiences. \$10. 8pm. Thru 11/21. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

### ACT @ Geary Theater

Final performances: Academy Award winner Olympia Dukakis stars as the enslaved Trojan queen in *Europides' Hecuba*, directed by Carey Perloff. 8pm. Closes 11/22. Tix: Geary Theater Box Office, 405 Geary St. (at Mason); 749-2228; BASS; and online at [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org).

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

"From the Hip," a play tracing the journey of Sissy and Sassy Sheraton, Siamese Twins who are talented 1950s songbirds pursuing dreams of stardom. 8pm. \$20 Fridays & Saturdays (\$16 for Thursdays and Sunday matinees). Thru 1/16/99. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Lower lobby.

Tix/Info: 861-8972.

### Dancers Group Studio Theater

The Joe Goode Performance Group, eclectic songsmith and multi-instrumentalist Mark Growden, and spoken-word artist and video maker Deke Weaver contribute to an evening of entertainment, part of the Second Annual S.F. Stretch Festival. \$10. 8pm. 3221 22nd St. (at Mission). 824-5044.

### Clarion Music Center

CD release party for the Jumping Buddha Ensemble, featuring traditional and new Chinese music. \$10. 8pm. 816 Sacramento St. 391-1317.

### Theatre Rhinoceros

"Valsetz," featuring June Stoddart and Claudia Rosa in a story of a hard-driving lesbian Hollywood producer whose car breaks down in front of an elderly widow's home in Valsetz, Oregon. Show runs thru 12/19.

(Population: one). Preceeded by "Industry Standards," three short comedies by Robert Reinhart, Doug Holsclaw, and Charles Busch and Kenneth Elliott about men in the Arts, starring Brian Yates and Robert Mackey. \$12-\$19. Thru 12/5. 2926 16th St. Reservations: 861-5079.

### The Giraffe

"Family Reunion, Emperor Style," a fundraiser presented by the Council of Emperors. Full buffet and silent auction for a leather jacket, professional hair styling, a set of Art Deco prints, a signed "Hun" erotic print, and more. Main event: bid on a dinner date with an Emperor. Special auction for din-

### City Club

Cocktail party sponsored by Men's Associated Exchange, a social network for gay men. Meets 1st & 3rd Friday of each month. No-host bar. Free for members; \$5 non-members. 6pm. 155 Sansome St. (btwn. Bush & Pine), 10th floor. 442-1992.

### CCAC, Oakland

Opening reception: "Held and Let Go," presenting a diverse group of contemporary works in basketry, textile, sculpture, turned wood, painting, and video. Based on the dynamic, double-edged theme of "holding and letting go." Presented by the CCAC Institute. Free. 7-9pm. Oliver Art Center, California College of Arts and Crafts, 5212 Broadway (at College Ave.), Oakland. (510) 594-3650.

## Sat 21

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

West Coast premiere: "Beautiful Thing," a heartfelt story of young love triumphant against all odds, set in southeast London in 1993. Written by Jonathan Harvey, directed by Ed Decker. With Jamie Marks and Nathan Wheeler as two teenage boys who risk everything for happiness. \$20. 8pm. Thru 1/2/1999. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

### Herbst International Exhibition Hall

"Big Deal '98," an exhibition and art sale benefiting VisualAid's programs for artists affected by life-threatening illnesses. More than 500 artists participating. All pieces are \$85 plus tax. \$15 entry. 3-10pm. Located at Moraga & Montgomery streets in the Presidio. Info: 777-8242.

### Dancers Group Studio Theater

Rube Waddell, The Beth Lisick Ordean, Mark Growden, and Down River contribute to an evening of entertainment, part of the Second Annual S.F. Stretch Festival. \$10. 8pm. 3221 22nd St. (at Mission). 824-5044.

**Johan Sebastian Bach's childhood, symbolized by the boat. Part of Khachik Shahbazian's sculpture at Vorpal Gallery. See Tuesday.**

### Josie's

Idris Ackamoor and Rhodessa Jones of Cultural Odyssey star in "I Think It's Gonna Work Out Fine," a performance based loosely on the lives and times of Ike and Tina Turner. \$10. 8pm. Also: Saturday Night Gay Comedy starring Scott Capurro, Karen Ripley, and Danny Williams. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market). Reservations: 861-7933.

**Clarion Music Center**

Reception for "Get Away From Me...and other works on paper," a solo exhibition by artist Timothy B. Buckwalter. A survey of images, phrases, and ideas from joke books, pamphlets, men's magazines, novels, music lyrics and other sources, rearticulated in a personal post-pop idiom. Free. 7-10pm. 3160-A 16th St. Show runs thru 12/19.

**McKenna Theater, SFSU**

Screening of "Rice & Potatoes," a documentary on the dynamics of gay Asian-Caucasian relationships, and "a seeker," an experimental short film on one man living in two cultures, gay and Chinese. \$5. 8pm. San Francisco State University, 1600 Hol-

### Everett Theatre

A holiday show in celebration of Native American Sovereignty and bilingual education, featuring Ulali (a women's singing trio), Dance Brigade, and Gen Taiko (traditional Japanese drumming). \$15 advance (tix from Mama Bears and Modern Times Books); \$17 door (\$8 seniors/children). 8pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church. 522-8793.

### Pier 5

"Rock for Decrim," a rock concert in support of the decriminalization of sex workers. Featuring live band "Jumbo." Sponsored by the US PROSTITUTE Collective. \$10-\$25 sliding. 8pm. Pier 5, Embarcadero. 626-4114.

### 177 Townsend

"Club Universe," high energy dancing all night, featuring special guest DJ Frankie Knuckles, plus regular DJs Blackstone and David Harness. \$12 (no passes). 9:30pm-7am. 21+w/l ID. Info: 289-6650.

### 550 Barneveld St.

Premier of a new dance club, "Metropolis," featuring DJs Matt Consola (Colossus/Waterworld) and Phil B. (Mass). \$5 all night. 10pm-6am. Located between Oakdale and Industrial streets, off of Bayshore (follow the searchlights). Info: 646-0890.

### Modern Times

Readings from *Fetish*, with John Yau, Dodie Bellamy, Kevin Killian and others. Explores everything from sex with corpses to S&M bars, magic aerosol sprays, and John Yau's feet. Free. 7:30pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. (at 20th St.). 282-9246.

### Cafe Asia

"Club Freedom," a mix teen and young adult dance club. DJ Jack Rojo spins latest hits, high energy, hip-hop and freestyle. Experience the freedom: no alcohol, no drugs, no weapons, no attitude. \$5 (\$3 w/ID). 6pm-midnight every Saturday. 220 Turk St. (at Jones). Info: 440-4329.

## Sun 22

### Josie's

The Kinsey Sicks perform "Josie's, Schmosies! What About Our Needs?" This beautyshop quartet drags the audience through songs, memories, and shocking secrets about their Josie's years that only now can be revealed publicly. Well known for their clever updates of classic songs, lovingly catty banter, and gorgeous costumes. \$10. 6pm & 8pm.

### A Different Light

Three events: First, at 1pm, "Mecca," the monthly open mic series. Check in at 12:30pm for a five-minute time slot to read, sing, dance, perform. Second, at 3:30pm, Joseph Itei reads from *A Consumer's Guide to Male Hustlers*. Third, at 7:30pm, Inga Muscio reads from *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*. All events are free.

### ATA Gallery

ATA and Other Cinema present One recording artists Eight Mile Beach, with Beth Custer on winds, brass, and vocals, Jeff Hirano on guitar, Mark Wyman on keyboards, and Jan Jackson on drums. Turntablism by Moebius Records bassist/producer Christian Jones. Visuals by Craig Baldwin. Dance/rave follows. A benefit for a music/film project by Cathy Crane and associates. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-8760.

**The Justice League**

"United Nations," a weekly international music dance club, featuring DJs IJ, Wisdom, and Alain del Corazon spinning African, Salsa, Reggae, Brazilian, Middle Eastern and other beats. Giveaway of world-music CDs from Putumayo Records. \$5. 21+ w/ID, 8pm-2am. 628 Divisadero (at Hayes).

**Cowell Theater**

"Mistura Brasileira II," an evening of Afro-Brazilian music and dance. In the theater lobby: a Brazilian Bazaar with crafts, foods, and costumes. \$15. Bazaar starts at 6pm; performance at 7pm. Fort Mason Center. 441-3400.

**Cat Club**

Grand opening: "Iniquity," a fetish club with a strict dress code. Rubber, PVC, leather, metal, corsets, and antiquated high formal or velvet and lace only. No denim. 6+ playrooms in fully equipped private dungeon (BYO toys). DJ Electronica on main dance floor; DJ Scene in dungeon. All genders/sexualities welcome. \$15 per person; \$25 per couple, 8pm-3am (at least). 21+ w/ID. Tix at door only. 1190 Folsom (near 8th). 289-2167.

**Mon 23**

**Theatre Rhinoceros**

Robert Coffman reads from "A Thanksgiving Visitor," Truman Capote's classic story of young Buddy, his special friend, and the Thanksgiving visitor that almost comes between them. \$10. 7pm. 2925 16th St. 861-5079.

**Josie's**

Gay Comedy Open Mic with guest emcee Dan Rothenberg hosting two hours of raw, up-and-coming talent. \$5. 8pm. To sign up, call 861-7933.

**The Green Room**

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble joins the nationwide celebration of American composer Joan Tower's 60th birthday by presenting the West Coast Premiere of her "Wild Purple" for solo viola, along with other works. \$15 (\$12 seniors/students). War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. 642-8054.



The Joe Goode Performance Group performs in the S.F. Stretch Festival at Dancers Group Studio Theater. See Friday.

Terrence McCarthy

**Tue 24**

**Noh Space**

Theatre of Yugen presents two Kyogen comedies, "Kamabara" (The Sickle and the Injured Pride) and "Kaminaru" (Thunder). Kyogen addresses such worldly concerns as greed, vanity, and the pleasures of outwitting someone. \$10.50-\$12.50 (\$8.50 students/seniors). 2840 Mariposa St. at Project Artaud (btwn. Florida & Alabama streets). 621-7978.

**Vorpal Gallery**

Continuing exhibit: "A Tableau of Sculpture Dedicated to Johann Sebastian Bach," by Khachik Shahbazian. The massive work gives

tangible expression to the powerful influence the great composer's music has had on the sculptor throughout his life. Free. 11am-6pm. 393 St. 397-9200.

**Wed 25**

**Harvey Milk Academy**

"Gay Rap," an opportunity for discussion and friendship. All Welcome. Free. 7:30pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy Auditorium, 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). 522-8700.

**Bench & Bar, Oakland**

Pre-Thanksgiving Day dance party with guest DJ Salvador. 9pm-2:30am. 18 & over. 120 11th St., Oakland. Info: (510)

444-2266.

**S.F. Camerawork**

Preview exhibition for the annual benefit auction of fine art photographic prints, which takes place on 12/5. Get an advance look at the photographs up for grabs — more than 200 vintage and contemporary prints. Not just for experienced collectors. Free. Noon-5pm, thru 12/4. 115 Natoma St. (btwn. New Montgomery & 2nd St.). 764-1001.

**Thu 26**

**The Plush Room**

Wesla Whitfield performs "Life Upon the Wicked Stage," her autobiographical show direct from NY's Kaufman Theater. Mike Greensill on piano, Michael Moore on bass. Cover: \$20 (\$25 Fri. & Sat.) 8pm. Thru 12/13. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. 885-2800.

**201 9th St.  
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"iPan Dulce!" A huge Latin party on two levels, with DJ Chili D spinning Salsa and Merengue upstairs, and DJ Salvador spinning Cumbia, Spanish Rock, and house music downstairs. Go go boys & girls. Featuring The Adela Holiday Show and Latin Go-Go Flava. 9pm-whenever. Info: 675-9763.



Rhodessa Jones and Idris Ackamoore portray the life and times of Ike and Tina Turner at Josie's. See Saturday.

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# Bound for the Holidays

by Mister Marcus

With only about six weeks remaining until Christmas, already party invitations are in the mail and benefits have been scheduled, all geared to make money for charities deemed worthy of your largesse — and, of course, to spread holiday cheer. It's time to have fun while helping those less fortunate than you.

With every passing weekend, new sashes are added to the roster of those who would reach for the gold rings at Int'l. Mr. Leather, International Ms. Leather, International Mr. Drummer and of course, International Mr. Bear. Just last weekend, three more names were added to the list of hopefuls who will most likely participate in any one of the aforementioned title finals.

The DC Eagle will be celebrating its 27th anniversary next week, and one of the events during the three-day marathon is the selection of Mr. DC Eagle on Saturday night, November 28. Wayne Nesbitt, who gave one of the most stirring speeches ever when he competed at Int'l. Mr. Leather last May, will step aside, but his outstanding year with the title is a matter of pride in the capital's leather community. His will definitely be a hard act to follow. The leather community at large wishes him well and knows he will continue his good works, dedication and altruism long after he passes the sash to his successor.

In Toronto, also next weekend (November 26-29), the leather extravaganza of the year is the Mr. Toronto Leather contest, held at the Opera House, with the usual meet and greet on Friday and the contest on Saturday, with a leather mart, dungeon dance, play parties, victory celebration, and lots more. There are many different prices for the various events, so if you plan on attending, I suggest you contact The Travel Clinic at 1-800-387-1240. Or contact the Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition by calling (416) 363-3134, or email to: redj@pop.total.net. This is a biggie! Thanks James Anderson, MLT '98, for a fun year!

Here in San Francisco, it'll a double whammy for AIDS Benefits Counselors during the weekend of December 5-6. Don "Ho"



Mark Withrow (right) was named Mr. Triangle Leather 1998 in Denver on Saturday, Nov. 14. At left is runner up Don Hooper.

Tse and Omar Moseley will stage their infamous fourth annual Christmas party, "Chains," at their Sanchez Street digs on Saturday the 6th, from 1700 to midnight, with a \$10 suggested donation requested by invitation only. And yes, you will be turned away at the door if you can't come up with the tariff.

The very next day (Sunday, December 7), former Mr. San Francisco Leather Gary Virginia stages his annual Holiday Brunch at Harvey's, from 1100 to 1500, with a \$20 price tag and lots of raffles and door prizes as well as entertainment.

The Russian River will finally have representation on-stage at the Int'l. Mr. Leather in Chicago next May. The second contestant to compete for the Mr. Russian River Leather '98-99 title will be chosen at the Russian River Resort (aka the Triple R) on Saturday, November 21. The winner of the Mr. Triple R Leather contest

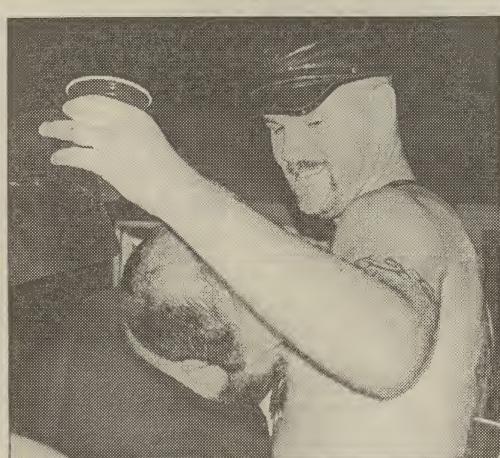
will compete for the Mr. RRL '98 title on December 12th. My press release didn't say what time this was taking place, but I expect after Ray Allen comes down from the celebration of his 50th birthday on Friday night, December 20, it will happen! By the way, Int'l. Mr. Leather 1988, Mike Pereyra, will be among the judges for the December 12 event. Oh, there's more, but it can wait for next week.

## Those darn slowpokes

Sorry to say that leather title contest promoters are very slow to get out the news about their winners, and not all the winners have yet been listed here, mostly because I am waiting for their photos. As an example of the lack of foresight and getting your guy "out there," the Detroit Eagle recently named their contestant, Darryl Birks, as Mr. Detroit Eagle Leather (he was a judge at Int'l. Mr. Leather in the past), yet not a word was sent out (at least not to me) about this development — not a note or an e-mail, much less a photo of the winner.

On the other hand, in Denver last Saturday night, November 14, Mark Withrow managed to become Mr. Triangle Leather 1998 in a contest that was judged by Triangle Bar owner Clark Thompson, with Mr. and Ms. Rocky Mountain Leather Bruce Chopnik and Abby Smith, as well as David Kracinski and Kent Eperson. The first runner-up was Don Hooper, but no other details were available at my deadline. Fortunately they had the foresight to get the word out and to report the winner's name after the event.

Very press-conscious Chicago promoters are right on top of it; the new Mr. International Rubber was named in a weekend-long scenario that saw four contestants face judges Bill Bailey, Thom Dombrowski, Tim Brough, Rich Villagracia, and outgoing Mr. Int'l. Rubber, Christof Lehner, next page ►



The new Mr. Bear of S.F., John Dwyer, receives a congratulatory slurp from an admirer at the Lone Star on Sunday, Nov. 8.

# Back to the disco

by Sweet Lips

**N**ow I know this will come as a shock to many of you, but I'm thinking of dragging my old polyester leisure suit out of the closet, letting the waist out a notch or two, and stepping out to the new disco in town, Polly Esther's, opening this weekend at 181 Eddy St.

It's not that I want to relive that awful era; it's just that I can't pass up drinks with names like The Sonny, The Cher, The Brady Punch, and (gawd help us all) the Afro-Disiac.

If you're inclined to join me—and I can't see why you would, though it would be nice to have some gay folks to clutch onto in the midst of what I'm sure will be a slippery acrylic dance floor pulsing with all kinds of dizzying lights and crawling with heterosexuals—we can hang out in the life-size replica of the Partridge Family Bus! Okay, I admit it, I did entertain fantasies about David Cassidy, even though he turned out to be as plastic his heyday. Or we can hide out in the life-size Herbie the Love Bug, if I can squeeze through the door; the old VW Beetles weren't quite as accommodating as the new ones.

Polly Esther's (I've tried not gagging on that name, but it's like having a swizzle stick stuck down my gullet) boasts two main dance floors: one upstairs, the Purple Rain Dance Floor, dedicated to '80s music and styles, and one downstairs, the lit, 1,000-sq.-ft. Saturday Night Fever Dance Floor. I believe the latter even boasts a giant cardboard cut-out of John Travolta in his fit-and-trim days. Frankly, I can't see why they're going to all the trouble to recreate those eras right now, since '70s and '80s nostalgia is très passé, and I don't see too many boys or girls in my neighborhood eager to turn back the clock yet again.

## Good work

Meanwhile, the "Every Penny Counts" project raised a grand total of \$1,800 for clients of the AIDS Emergency Fund during their recent Sidewalk Sale—pretty good for a rainy weekend. As always, 90% of the proceeds go directly to PWAs.

Chuck Largent's Joe Sent Me Club presents *Once Upon a Mattress* on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m.



## COCKTAIL HOUR

Tickets, \$30, include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and champagne and dessert with the cast after the curtain calls. Advance reservations are advised: call 252-8950.

On Sat.-Sun., Nov. 21-22 at Marlene's basement, volunteers from the GodFather Service Fund will wrap Xmas presents for AIDS patients, and Larry Cook could use your help. The third Sunday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., bartender David Wagstaff at the Giraffe Bar donates half of his tips to the GodFather.

Stop the presses! On Sunday, Nov. 29, the Rendezvous hosts "The Spirit of '76" Birthday Party for Yours Truly, Sweet Lips, from 2 to 8 p.m., and yes, I'll be on the plank from 2-4 p.m.

Happy birthday to Wayne Friday, who is celebrating in Puerto Vallarta, where Jimmy Quinn, Jay Holmes, Bart Dreyer, Dick Deemer and Yours Truly, the Empress I de P.V., will join him on the 30th for some much-deserved R&R. After all, it took a lot of work to reach 76. Now if only I can hold onto my money roll when I entertain overnight guests. ▼

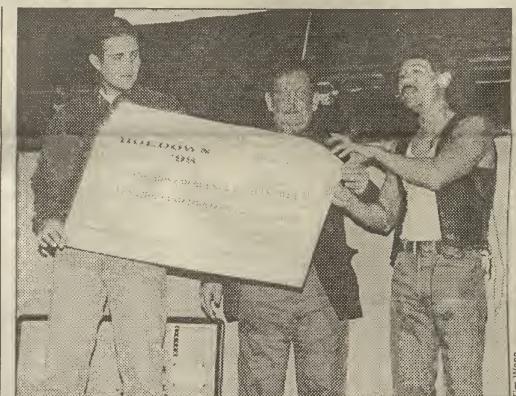
## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

during the scoring segments.

Contestants were Greg Spears (Chicago area), Stephan Krause of Munich, Germany (described as "drop dead" beautiful), Thomas Smith of Minneapolis, and Michael Ryan of Cincinnati. It all played out to a packed Cell Block bar as Khris Francis emcee'd the affair without any rude incidents (surprise!). When all was said and done, Thomas Smith of Minneapolis won the sash and the photos are on the way from my goombah, Ron Volanti, the official I.M.L. photographer.

In Ottawa, all that could be heard ringing through the Canadian capital after Saturday night's Mr. Ottawa Hull Leather contest was, "What a Hunk!" That's what they were saying about the new winner, one Dean Ross. The first runner-up was Jacques Lagace, and the second runner-up was James Morgan. The other contestants were Pierre Teck, Rich Fournier and Norm Breau.



David Jensen (left) and Rick Salinas (center) of the AIDS Emergency Fund accept a check for \$7,013 from Ingu Yun. The donation came from Yun's "Hoedown" CW dance benefit on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Word has it that the after hours party at the Steam Works in Ottawa was Fabulous! The Ottawa

Knights do know how to live it up right, and accolades are ringing all over the place for this year's production. I can't wait to see the photos of this hunk Dean Ross. ▼

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, November 19

Constantines MC beer/soda bust @ Daddy's, from 2000-2300, and only \$7.

### Friday, November 20

Knights of Malta MC beer/soda bust @ the Eagle for only \$7, from 2100-2400.

Emperor's Council hosts "Family Reunion: Emperor Style," auctioning off dinner dates with dowager emperors and a dynamite date with The Widow Norton.

Free and anonymous HIV testing (new oral test) upstairs @ 933 Harrison St., from 2000-2200. Call 863-HEAD.

Exiles/SF present "Leather Speak," discussion about old leather with doors open from 1930-2000, ending by 2200 @ Women's Bldg., \$3/members, \$5/others. For more info call 487-5170.

Master and slave Together gathering, no meeting, no contests, just a gathering @ the Loading Dock, 2200.

### Saturday, November 21

Golden Gate Guards MC's 12th anniversary party,

by invite or club overlay, from 1900-2200, @ the Eagle. New officers!

Pantry 2 beer/soda bust @ Daddy's, from 1500-1800, for only \$7. Benefits Project Open Hand. Charley Pacheco entertains, and Ric Poston, Oklahoma Mr. Leather, will be a special guest.

Mr. Russian River Resort Leather contest up in Guerneville. The winner competes for the Mr. Russian River Leather title on December 12th. Winner of that title goes to Chicago in May to compete for the Int'l. Mr. Leather title.

### Sunday, November 22

Another sash goes to someone at the GDI's Butch Brunch today, from 1100-1500. \$7 advance/\$10 door, at the SFPOA Hall (510 7th St.). Tix avail from any GDI member or at the Leather Zone on Upper Market. They'll be choosing Mr. GDI Leather to compete at Mr SF Leather in March.

### Wednesday, November 25

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust @ Daddy's, from 2100-2400, for only \$7. Leather Buddies (you know the rules!) at 933 Harrison. Doors open from 2100-2300 only! No cologne. Dress code enforced. Call 863-HEAD.

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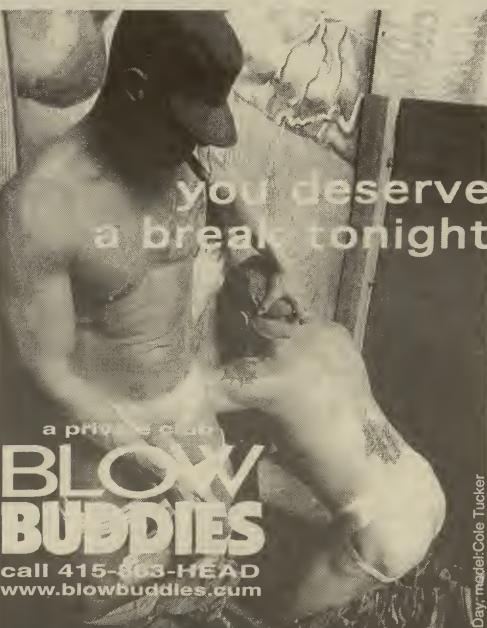
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Wed, Nov 25 LEATHER BUDDIES







Josh Wink

## Fierce beats

by Gregg Shapiro

**H**eavy-metal roared vocals paired up with heavy-metal guitars, both layered over some of the most fierce beats you will ever hear blaring from the speakers in your house or at your favorite club. That's a rough approximation of Fear Factory, and of their new remix album *Remanufacture* (*Cloning Technology*) (Roadrunner). The title track, "Burn," "Machines Of Hate," and "21st Century Jesus" are enough to wear out the most physically fit circuit party attendee. Tracks such as "Genetic Blueprint," "Faithless," "Cloning Technology," and "National Panel Beating" are surprisingly, insightfully funky.

Attempting to straddle the same precarious electronic dance music/heavy metal razor-wire fence is Josh Wink. On Wink's long-awaited full-length major-label debut *Herehear* (Ovum/Columbia), he does a pretty good job of it. The best examples of how torn between the two worlds Wink is, are his choices of guest performers. Of the disc's dozen tracks, five of them feature vocalists such as Trent Reznor and Carcine Crawley.

Before that, however, Wink shows off his much-heralded electronica skills on the instrumental "Back In Tha' Day" and "Hard Hit." After Trent Reznor's star turn on the rough "Black Bomb (Jerry In The Bag)," it takes a while before the good dance music gets revved up. However, when it does, you may agree that it was worth the wait. Coming in succession are "Ah Git Up," "Track 9" (with vocals by Sweet Pussy Pauline), "Are You There," and

"New Groove." If your intention is to dance, skip to track eight and get busy. You'll have almost twenty-five minutes to work up a serious sweat from the beginning of "Ah Git Up" to the end of "New Groove."

More on the drum-n-bass side of the fence, *Holon* (Hypnotic) by Equinox also owes a little something to the world of industrial music. The fact that Bill Leeb (of Frontline Assembly) is one half of this duo (the other half is Chris Patterson) might have something to do with it. Holon's nine tracks are active and aggressive, a good combination to be when the dance-floor is your target. Highlights include "Contact," "Janus Effect," "Funk Ass," "Electronic Dreams," and "Horizon."

One of the busiest men in the music industry, Brad Laner's latest offering from Electric Company, one of his multitude of band projects, is called *Studio City*. Laner, who made a name for himself playing in various punk/alternative/modern rock outfits such as Debt of Nature, Medicine, Amnesia, and Lusk, has also previously recorded two other discs under the name Electric Company. And "electric" it is. It's also pretty eclectic, moving from trip-hop to drum-n-bass to jungle to electronica all in the space of ten songs (and a little over fifty-five minutes). I particularly liked the songs "Star Klang," "Darken an' Slobbering," "Greenland," and "Soundcard." If you're looking to compare it to something with which you're already familiar, Aphex Twin comes closest. ▼

Josh Wink plays The Fillmore on Nov. 25.

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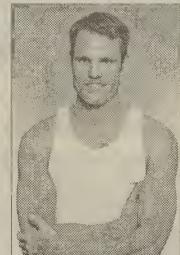


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Gay softball team looking for a cou-  
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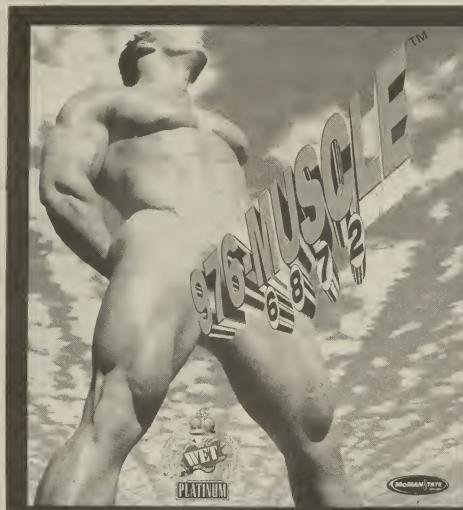
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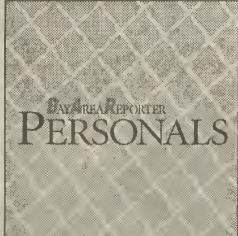
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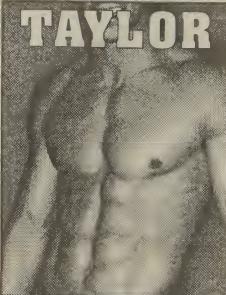
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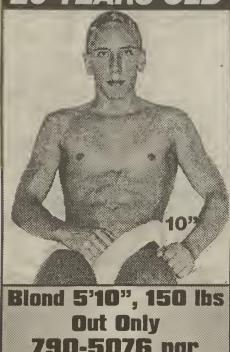
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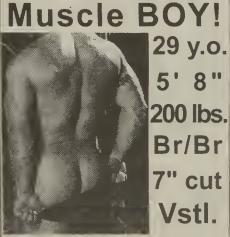
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8" Cut, Firm, tight body. Clean cut  
Nice bottom boy & good massage 2  
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7" Uncut.  
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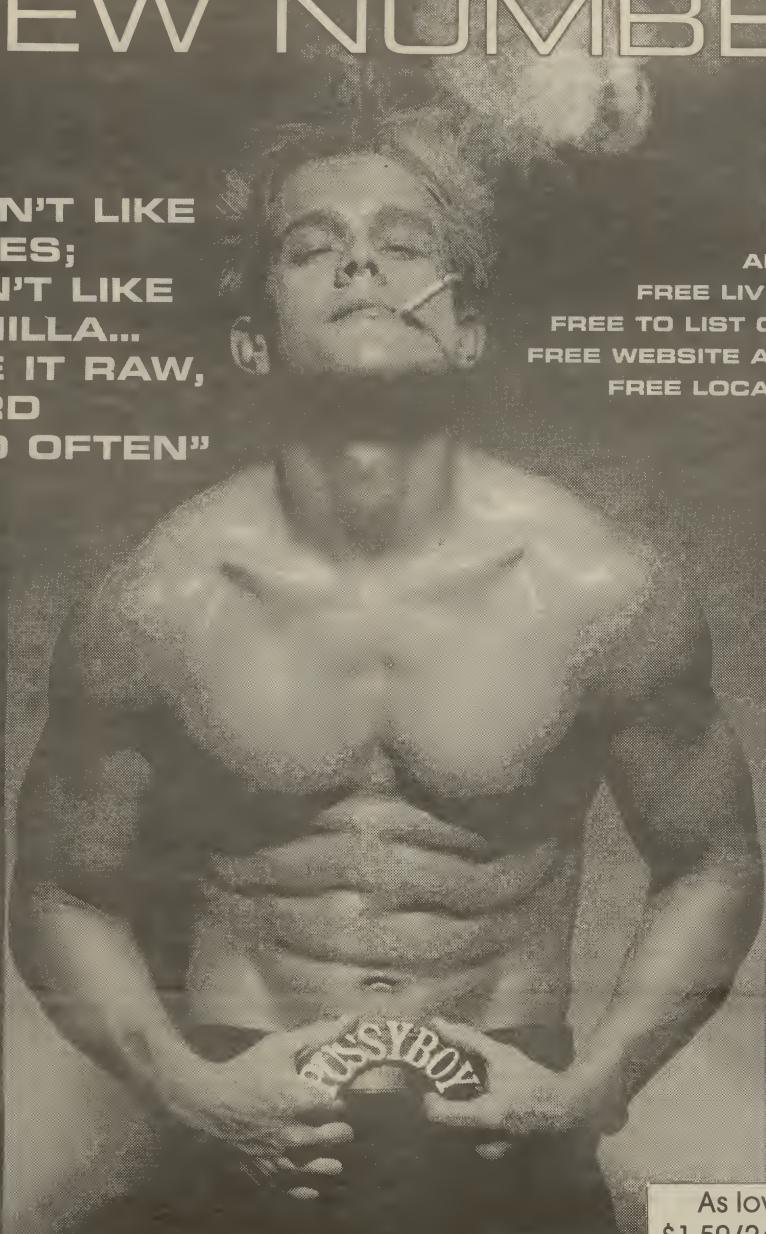
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